

Jan 84



## SPARKS

**Tri-State Amateur Radio Society**  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

VOLUME XXIV NO. 1

### OFFICERS:

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
V.P.: Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Sec.: Elvin Reed WB9VSQ  
Treas. Joyce Spencer KA9CPE

### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers KA9EIV  
Bill Spencer WD9HUK  
Harold Muensterman N9DEO  
Michael Knott N9DEV  
Charlie Finke WB9NQD

EDITOR: Mike Anderson KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and \*  
\* Heidelberg Avenues at the RED CROSS building. \*  
\* Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM \*  
\* The officers and directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday \*  
\* at 7:00 PM at the RED CROSS building. \*  
\* \*  
\* The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM, local \*  
\* time on the W9UG repeater. 147.75-15 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**from:**

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 958  
Evansville, IN 47706

**TO:**

*If you have questions about SPARKS or an article for it please contact the editor.*

## BLANCHE IS A WINNER!

The 1983 winner of the McCutchan Award is Blanche Elpers (KA9EIV). Blanche was presented the award by Hal Wilson, the permanent chairman of the award committee, at the Annual Christmas Party. Also honored through this committee were the outgoing president John Small (W9FHA) and several past presidents of TARS.

This award was established in 1977 by local businessman and civic leader Ellis Carson to honor his friend and silent key John E. McCutchan. Mr. McCutchan was an avid Amateur radio operator who gave freely of his time, knowledge and skills to help other Amateurs. He also taught many of the I.S.U.E. / T.A.R.S. licence classes and it was through one of these classes that he met Ellis Carson.

Mr. McCutchan was an Elmer for Carson. When Mr. Carson bought a home on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts he decided to set up a station on his property. However, due to complicated technical problems it was just more than he could handle alone. So John pitched in helping Ellis to purchase the proper equipment and traveled with him to St. Kitts to establish the station (VP2KC).

The first award in 1977 was shared by Hal Wilson and Frank Hirt each man was presented with a check for \$50.00. Although the money was appreciated both men felt a more lasting award should be instituted. Frank conferred with Ellis Carson and the men developed the certificate, permanent plaque and the nominating process that exists today.

The McCutchan Memorial Award is the most prestigious award a TARS member can receive but the 3 man nominating committee is independent of the local club. The committee includes Hal Wilson, permanent chairman, plus the 2 committeemen who are the most recent recipients of the award, they serve a 2 year term. Every year in October the members of the committee individually send a nominating letter to Hal naming their candidates. The letters list attributes and special qualities they feel their candidates possess. Committeemen do not confer during this process and should they name two different persons Hal is responsible for the final selection. Amazingly enough since the inception of the award this has only occurred once.

**AUCTION**

**JAN. 12th  
7:30 PM  
RED CROSS**



## FEEDBACK de KA9LMO

**KRE's KORNER****WE MADE IT!!!!!!**

Looking Back it was a good year for T.A.R.S. No real weather emergency's, "Another great Hamfest", "Field Day", "Emergency Coordinating Meeting", "Christmas Party".

We handled communications for Parades, Boat Races, Bicycle Races, and Drums on the Ohio to name a few.

I am looking forward to another great year, we have a new contract signed with the American Red Cross. So we have a home for two more years. We have the "Hamfest" coming in May. This is our money maker so when you are asked to help just ask how & where.

We have "Field Day" in June! We came in 7th. place last year with a few more CW operators - who knows?

I could go on & on about the coming events but I better save some for later-- So don't forget-- January Meeting is Auction Night so bring back the goodies that you bought last year and I am sure there will be something for sale that you won't be able to live without. See you Jan. 12th.

73's Jim KA9KRE

**BLANCHE IS A WINNER!**

Continued from page 1

In every club there are always the members who give more than their share of time and talent to benefit the organization. The McCutchan award was established to honor these very special people and to say a public thank you for all they accomplish. It is also a means to honor a man who was an Elmer to many and helped local Amateur Radio and T.A.R.S. become what it is today.

Most women are lucky they are only Football widows. In my time I have been a Photo Widow, Ham Widow, Stamp & Coin Widow, Channel 9 Auction Widow but ladies nothing is as bad as being a Computer Widow.

It seems very innocent at first. He comes home with a rather small box filled with a few cables, a small Typewriter-like keyboard, a smallish TV type of thing, and a tape recorder. It goes together with less trouble than many a Christmas toy and your new Computer Hacker is typing his little heart away.

After a few weeks though you realize you have a problem. You know it's serious when you find the Playboy that was delivered two weeks ago is still in the brown paper wrapper. You also notice that the only food intake has been sandwiches & the clothes on his back could stand alone.

Another hint is the new language that springs forth from his mouth. For you Novices out there here are a few goodies to watch out for, BYTE, READ ONLY, DISK DRIVE, CP/M, and any number followed by K. This is the important one ladies--MODEM.

When you hear MODEM gush from his lips run, do not walk, to your local Cult de-programmer & get him to your home quick. For if your little Hacker gets a MODEM hooked up that means his little computer can talk to other little computers all over the country.

I know this sounds very innocent however, nothing in this life is free and MODEMS work with the assistance of MA BELL and the long distance lines. After you get two bills from the dear old gal that ten years ago was a down payment on a home I think you'll fully understand my warning.

Well YL's & XYL's if I'm not lynched by the Hackers I'll try to return someday with more words for the wise. Till then fight back with heat over 80 degrees or fluctuating power in your home, Computers hate both, and maybe someday you'll have him back.

73's Carolyn KA9LMO



If you didn't come to the Xmas party you missed a chance to win the Cold Hard Cash. Ask KA9KRD about the weight of her prize or try thawing your prize in the Fireplace, did the wooden boxes ever get opened?

A good year is past, & a bigger year is coming. This is the Chinese year of the "RAT". When you are asked to help with one of the projects say yes don't be a RAT!

I will be printing Sparks a little earlier this year due to scheduling problems. Get your articles to me early. Handbills for this years hamfest will be at the February Meeting, take a few and pass them out or mail one to a friend. We need to keep our Hamfest Successful, it keeps the club in the Black.

The 147.15/75 Repeater is in the Intensive Care Ward after suffering a massive Attack.

Under the care of Mike (W9KXP) the patient has underwent much surgery and will survive. The audio quality of the machine is to be much better and the auto-patch will be placed on this machine when it is relocated.

After being repaired the 146.79/19 machine will also be overhauled, however, not as a primary machine but as a backup repeater.

At press time the machine was still undergoing testing and should be back on the air shortly.

A big thanks to Mike for a Job Well Done, we all take the repeaters for granted, but it requires a dedicated person to make it happen.

**NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS**

1. Lock Basement Door.
2. Air-Condition Basement.
3. Voltage Regulator for Computer.

73's KA9LQM



TREASURER'S REPORT DEC. 27, 1983

Bank Bal. Nov. 22, 1983-----\$4108.67  
 Cash on hand-----34.00

## Receipts:

Xmas party reservations -----\$351.00  
 Sparks Ads -----15.00  
 T.A.R.S. Dues -----8.00  
 Repeater Dues -----12.00  
 Interest -----17.10  
 Total -----403.10

## Payments:

S.I.G. & E. Co. -----\$ 3.21  
 Xmas Party Prizes -----350.00  
 Indiana Bell -----40.44  
 American Red Cross -----500.00  
 Soft drinks & ice -----44.64  
 Mrs D's -----292.95  
 Sparks & postage -----59.60  
 Kings Mens Club -----51.00  
 Electro Lab Services -----20.00  
 Hamtronics -----74.50  
 Radio Shack, Hutch & OVS -----52.34  
 S.I.G. & E. Co. -----2.89  
 Total -----1491.57

Bank Bal. Dec. 27, 1983 ----- \$3054.20

\*\*\*\*\*

TREASURER'S REPORT for 1983

Bank Balance Jan. 1, 1983 ----- \$3300.59

## Receipts:

Reservations-----\$ 404.00  
 Dues -----1677.00  
 Hamfest -----3394.50  
 Commissions-----23.17  
 Interest -----228.55  
 Donations -----25.00  
 Tuition -----100.00  
 Sparks ads -----45.00  
 Total -----\$5897.22

## Payments:

Hamfest Food -----\$ 635.00  
 Hamfest prizes -----892.54  
 Hamfest Misc -----775.48  
 Xmas party & meetings 1042.00  
 Disaster Drill (FD) 95.43  
 RedCross & Incert --- 650.00  
 Sparks -----359.80  
 Repeater Repair -----371.74  
 Repeater utilities--- 520.54  
 Insurance -----249.00  
 Sept. picnic (EACL) -- 354.83  
 Memorials -----119.50  
 Office Expense -----77.75  
 Total -----\$6143.61

Bank Balance Dec. 27, 1983 ----- \$3054.20

\*\*\*\*\*

## Repeater Account for 1983:

Dues -----\$873.00

Repairs -----\$371.74  
 Utilities -----520.54  
 Insurance -----50.00  
 \$942.28

Final Reports submitted by Blanche M. Elpers, KA9EIV



# Future Spacelab

de WA90CO

Listed below are Spacelab flights through 1988. Impressive? Not when compared with the original conception for Spacelab—flights every month were envisioned. And of the flights below only those through Spacelab 4 are firmly set. Consistent with the recent history of the Space Shuttle, numbering as been juggled around. Some are missing. For example Spacelab 5 was split into the Astro and SHEAL flights for budgetary reasons.

Yet this is not a complete picture of Spacelab utilization. These are the Spacelab "dedicated" missions (with the exception of the split-up Spacelab 5), which means flights solely dedicated to Spacelab. Spacelab hardware—pallets and instruments—also will fly on "mixed cargo" flights—that is, aboard flights with other goals such as launching satellites.

Configurations for the flights consist of combinations of the cylindrical pressurized module and U-shaped instrument pallets or pallets alone controlled from the Orbiter. One flight, Spacelab 3, uses a special bridge-like instrument structure called the Mission Peculiar Equipment Support Structure (MPESS), which also flew on STS-7. All Missions currently are for 7 days duration.

CREWS: For Spacelab 3—Robert F. Overmyer, commander; Fredrick D. Gregory, pilot; Don L. Lind, mission specialist; Norman E. Thagard, mission specialist; William E. Thornton, mission specialist and two payload specialists to be named. For Spacelab 2—Anthony W. England and Karl G. Henize have been named mission specialists. The rest of this and other crews are yet to be named.

MISSION	LAUNCH DATE	CONFIG.	OBJECTIVES
SPACELAB 3	11/22/84	Long Mod. & MPESS	13 investigations into materials processing, environmental observations, life science, technology, & astrophysics.
Spacelab 2	3/29/85	3 pallets	13 investigations into astrophysics & solar astronomy, environmental observations, space plasma physics, life sciences, & technology.
Spacelab D1	6/13/85	Long Mod.	West German mission investigating materials processing, atmospheric physics & Earth observation, space plasma physics, astronomy & solar physics, & life sciences.
Spacelab 4 (Life Sciences Lab.)	12/18/85	Long Mod.	24 investigations into cardiovascular/cardiopulmonary, vestibular, renal/endocrine, hematology, immunology, muscle, calcium metabolism/bone, & gravitational biology areas.
Astro-1	3/6/86	2 pallets	Three ultraviolet astronomical telescopes to view Halley's Comet and other celestial objects.
Astro-2	11/26/86	2 pallets	Same as Astro 1.
Spacelab D4	3/31/87	4 pallets	West German astrophysics mission.
Spacelab 8	5/27/87	Long Mod. & 1 pallet	International Microgravity Laboratory conducting materials processing & physics experiments.
Astro-3	7/23/87	2 pallets	Same as Astro 1.
Spacelab J	1/26/88	Long Mod. & 1 pallet	Japanese materials processing & life sciences flight.
SHEAL	3/10/88	2 pallets	Shuttle High Energy Astrophysics Laboratory consisting of three X-ray astronomy investigations & a cosmic ray experiment.
Spacelab 10	6/2/88	Long Mod. & 1 pallet	Second flight of Space Life Sciences Laboratory (SLSL-2).
Spacelab 6 (Space Plasma Lab.)	9/17/88	1 pallet	11 investigations into space plasma physics.

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*****
*      Renew your 1984 Membership      *
*  T.A.R.S. Regular Dues ..... $ 8.00  *      Mail Check made payable to TARS & send to *
*  Repeater Dues ..... 12.00           *
*      Total ..... $20.00              *      Joyce Spencer, KA9CPE, Treasurer *
*                                          *      1550 South Burkhardt Road *
*                                          *      Evansville, Indiana 47715 *
*  Senior Citizens (over 65) ..... 8.00 *
*  Students-club dues only ..... 4.00   *
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## SPARKS

### Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

FEBRUARY 1984  
VOLUME XXV NO. 2

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\* TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond &  
\* Heidelberg Avenues at THE RED CROSS building.  
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\* Evansville Time. The officers & directors meeting is held on the third  
\* Thursday at 7:00 PM in THE RED CROSS building.  
\* The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Local  
\* time on the W9OG repeater 147.75/15 Alternate repeater 146.19/79  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 958  
Evansville, IN 47706

#### TO:

CAROLYN ANDERSON  
5295 EDEN DRIVE  
EVANSVILLE, IN, 47715

*If you have questions about SPARKS or an article for it please contact the editor.*

Editors Note: The following OLD -- TIMERS COLUMN is a reprint of a 1953 CQ Magazine article. We would like to thank John Small, W9FHA for submitting this for publication! Send your old photos to me, they will be copied and returned to you unharmed.

#### FEBRUARY 9th. MEETING

#### BINGO

Bring your XYL or OM

January, 1953

CQ

39



By Fay Gehres, W9AIN, for

#### The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

##### A New Type of "Mobile Corner"

Due to the pressure of his work in the State Department, "Andy" Anderson, W3NL, reported last May that he felt it might not be possible for him to continue handling the original "Mobile Corner" department. The past few months have shown that it is not likely that his work will diminish, and so, with regret, Andy has decided to relinquish editorship of the column.

Naturally, with the heavy emphasis that CQ has placed upon mobile operation, this caused us no small amount of concern. Somewhere along the line of attempting to find a replacement, someone came up with the idea of presenting a monthly column in a somewhat unusual fashion.

The idea finally decided upon was to have a different mobile club prepare the column each month. This would "personalize" the column to a greater extent than if it was "edited" by one individual. Mobile clubs, or ham clubs with a mobile group are probably the most active in the hobby today. We felt that a report, by clubs, of their "doings" would make interesting reading—see what you think of this first column by the Evansville Club.

During the past thirty-five years the Amateur Radio fraternity has seen its hobby pass through many important and interesting phases. It began as ordinary wireless with noisy spark transmitters. Then, during the first World War, we witnessed the perfection of the vacuum tube, which, for the first time, enabled us to realize an input as high as fifty watts. Not only was the vacuum tube transmitter quiet and more efficient, but vacuum tubes made possible amateur radiotelephone where the male species at last could talk loud and long.

The automobile and amateur radiotelephone seemed destined to become a natural mode and phase of amateur operations. In 1934 W9AIN applied for and obtained an experimental license as W1OXDD for investigating the use of mobile radio at 31 megacycles. A 19-tube final amplifier and superregenerative receiver gave promise of a useful signal, but additional power and more stability was desired. The second phase employed a 35T final amplifier, with an Ultra-Skyrider receiver and was maintained in operation for several years. The frequency was finally raised to 160 megacycles, using a 815 final amplifier and a composite crystal controlled superheterodyne receiver. Frequency modulation employing a reactance modulator proved that reliable communication could be maintained for a distance of approximately twenty miles. The antenna mast was a 36-foot Premax vertical support mounted on the left running board. Pictures of this mobile installation in a

1938 Plymouth panel truck appeared in many radio magazines.

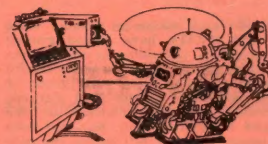
The end of the second World War, the reopening of the amateur bands and the large surplus markets presented an opportunity for mobile operation for every amateur. W9MRR and W9BLF were among the first in the field to exploit these conditions, and immediately realized transcontinental contacts beyond their fondest dreams. W9ANG and the late W9KMI were building their mobile transmitters over in Mt. Carmel, Illinois, and their subsequent thirty-mile contacts into Evansville proved that ten-meter mobile operation was here to stay. W9THD constructed a highly efficient eight-watt, about which an article was ultimately published in CQ. W9MDX and W4LLR followed by devising mobile installations which excited much local interest; their operations proved both entertaining and useful during the extensive trips which their business necessitated. Another project was completed by W9AZJ, who returned from the service and converted his 31-megacycle police transmitter to 10. W9UIA followed his lead, using the same conversion procedure.

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society began to hear more regarding mobile operation, automobile noise suppression and the merits of various types of installations. W9IMI in Boonville, W9GWL in Griffin and W4JQV joined the rush to share in the new amateur practice. W9NEC, W9BJZ and W9JUJ were next to be heard. By the middle of 1950, W9KVK was licensed and went mobile along with W9IN, W9GFS, W9KVL, W9ERN, W9JUH, W9UNT, W9DFD, W4NUQ and W9CZF.

In order that contacts might be more easily established, a common frequency of 29.6 megacycles was chosen. Spinning the receiver dial was thereby eliminated and break-in was a certainty. This common frequency principle proved so beneficial that it has been continued to the present time.

A further determination of mobile capabilities was sought by W9ANG, W9KVK, and W9AIN who conducted a series of evening tests, using various powers, altitudes and antenna polarization. With the aid of W9FZX in Carmi, Illinois (now W7EUO), it was found that good communication could be maintained with twenty watts power over a thirty mile distance, but maximum cross polarization range was only 15 miles. Using a higher altitude at each end, W9KVK and W9AIN were able to establish 75-mile contacts on several occasions. These were from picked spots, while the cars were standing with the motor dead. W9ANG at Mt. Carmel could be copied and two-way contact maintained over a distance of approximately 35 miles with the units in motion at both ends. All of these tests were conducted on different





Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, Indiana 47732

Area 812 476.5572  
MIKE ANDERSON

What is the most obscene four letter word that comes to your mind? I'll give you a hint, it starts with a "T" and ends with a "T", it causes usually intelligent men and women to digress into babbling idiots, it has been your secret foe since childhood, Yes Fellow Hams, the horrible word is "TEST", now get your mind out of the gutter and I'll continue.

Our phobia concerning tests is ingrained from long ago. Back in the first or second grade we began testing. Who will ever forget the day everyone received a little smiling face on their paper and we got a frown face. The teacher put them all on the board. That frown seemed to grow to gigantic proportions till it covered the entire bulletin board and all your classmates smiled smugly at you knowing they studied while you were playing with your new puppy.

Although we hide our scars well you can still see the frown face people every time they take a test. The green color on their faces is a dead give away and they are always holding their heads mumbling, "But that's now how the book had it, was it even in the book?" It's also fairly obvious when they are the only ones in the testing group who need CPR. (Ask Fred at the Red Cross about Classes)

Why all this talk about that nasty word. Well I'm convinced that a lot of Hams deserve to upgrade but the old test jitters keep them from trying. And the thought of someone from the FCC handing that horrible thing to you doesn't help the nerves one bit either.

Look Folks, as far as I'm concerned, anyone who can put up a dipole disguised as a clothesline for the neighbors has enough smarts to beat the FCC jitters. You know the material, you've taken the classes and passed, You have got a station on the air & have persuaded your spouse that all the time and money invested in Ham Radio is vital for the delicate natural balance of the environment.

Why settle for Novice or Tech. when you are General or Advanced material? Take the darned old test and you just might surprise yourself. It's funny how if you tell yourself you can't do something long enough you begin to Believe It Yourself. Down with Negative Thinking!

Try this little trick. Go back to the days of smile & frown papers; and imagine what the teacher and class looked like as they were smiling smugly because of your frown. Now visualize them all in their underwear with big frowns on their bellies and now you have the last laugh. Do the same with the FCC Examiner who hands you THE TEST, you should do this in a quiet way least you have to take a ride in a funny jacket. Now put the answers down while seeing a big smile on your paper.

Well it's over, you've passed and upgraded and have some wonderful new privileges. Now don't you feel silly for waiting so long. You now have a new motto.

Frowning Bellies Make Me Smile !

Uh, don't try to explain that one, they might find that funny jacket a after all & give you a free ride in a funny white taxi with a little red light on the roof.

73's Carolyn  
KA9LMO

Well Folks, Spring is just about here and with that comes the Hamfest Season. Work has already begun on the Great 1984 T.A.R.S. Hamfest. , as you may have heard by now the date will be MAY 20, 1984 a SUNDAY. It has been incorrectly listed in one club paper as the 13th. Please tell everyone you talk to the correct date of May 20..

I am taking care of Publicity and Blanche is doing everything else. (Only joking Blanche). If you would like to help give her a call she will put you to work doing something you like. We all need to pitch in and help as the Hamfest is our single fundraiser of the year and keeps the club operating in the black.

Mike , W9KXP is currently working on the 75/15 machine. isolating some stray RF which got into the receiver. (Mike, do you use a quarter horse to round up the strays ?) The machine should be back on the air by the time you get Sparks or shortly thereafter. As soon as the auto-patch is repaired by the factory it too will be back in service. Next time you hear Mike Townsend on the air, let him know what a great job the repeater is doing.

Computer Hackers have faith, I soon will be putting a few short Vic-20 & Commodore-64 programs in Sparks on a space available basis. If you don't want to see COMPUTER and MORE COMPUTER send me your Ham Articles for Sparks, hint, hint, hint. Starting with this issue I hope to have an Old Timers Column, looking for an Old Timer to write one, any volunteers? This is about the right amount of bull to fill my column so I'll just quit.

73's Mike

*****			
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*	Repeater Dues ..... 12.00	*	
*	Total \$20.00	*	Joyce Spencer, KA9CFE, Treasurer
*		*	1550 South Burkhardt Road
*	Senior Citizens (over 65) ..... 8.00	*	Evansville, Indiana 47715
*	Students-club dues only ..... 4.00	*	
*****			



**KRE's KORNER**

## TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY

Beginning Balance January 1, 1984.....\$3,070.02

## Receipts

TARS & Repeater Dues .....	\$730.00
Indiana Bell Refund.....	12.13
Interest Received.....	12.67
Auction Receipts.....	221.00
Total Receipts	975.80

## Payments

Refreshments.....	\$ 44.87
Dan Mitchell for Ginpole.....	75.00
Repeater Parts.....	160.32
Bond Insurance.....	14.00
Long Distance Call.....	3.20
Paid out at Auction.....	164.47
Printed Checks.....	5.08
Printing Sparks & Postage for Sparks.....	55.80
Total Payments	\$522.74

Balance on Hand January 23, 1984..... \$3,523.08

Joyce KA9CPE

I am sitting here today watching what I hope is the last snowfall of this winter. Soon it will be time to get out & replace those antenna's that didn't make it as well as expected. Check guy wires, straighten towers, in general live dangerous for awhile. So don't forget TARS owns a good safety belt and a Ginpole. If you need them call me or Mike Townsend and we will see that you get them.

January Auction was another success. As usual "Little Ed" K9HVI with the help of John, W9FHA outdid themselves. I just wonder what Ken (WA9HGA) is going to do with a straight Key?

John (W9FHA) took home the 1953 editions of CQ Magazine & found an interesting article about TARS & 10meter mobile written by Faye Gehres (W9AIN). We are going to reprint it in Sparks. It should bring back some fond memories of the (Good Old Days) I said that still hoping the good old days haven't got here yet.

Mike (W9KXP) has the 75/15 m machine back in service while we are still waiting for some parts. Also the phone patch isn't working right so he is going to send it back to the factory to see if they can find the problem. It was struck by lightning a few years ago and has never fully recovered.. sometimes it works.. sometimes it don't.

Hamfest is coming right along. Letters are being sent to dealers, area clubs & the news media. We should have the flyers by the Feb. meeting. We want to get these to every Hamfest between now & MAY 20th. There will be Bingo at the Hamfest for the ladies. We need input so if you have any ideas for the Hamfest or want to volunteer your service for anything please let us know by calling Blanche (KA9EIV)

Don't forget Feb. meeting is the 9th. Program will be B I N G O.. Bring your wives.

73's

Jim KA9KRE

Ed. Note now a GENERAL !

T.A.R.S. Monthly meeting January 12, 1984 7:30 P.M. Red Cross

Meeting was opened by Jim (KA9KRE) with everyone introducing themselves.

1. Ginpole is to be purchased for use by Club Members.
2. 147.15/.75 machine is under major surgery, Mike (W9KXP) was not at the meeting due to working on the repeater that night.
3. Business meeting adjourned with break for refreshments.
4. Annual Auction "Little Ed" (K9HVI) was in full command and fun was had by all.

Board Meeting January 19, 1984 Red Cross Building

## New Business

1. Club cleared \$53.00 on the January Auction
2. Ginpole to be purchased for \$75.00 from Dan Mitchell. Also need to find a club member to take care of all club equipment.
3. Treasurer's Books to be audited as soon as possible.
4. Agreement to continue working with the Weather Bureau.
5. Corporate papers to be sent in to State of Indiana.
6. Discussed costs of advertising in "Sparks" Additional Ads will be sold if there is interest. Dropped in past due to lack of interest by advertisers.
7. Contact Red Cross for possible assistance in mailing of "Sparks".
8. Thank You letter will be sent to Mrs. C. W. Robertson for donating Ham Equipment for sale at the Auction.
9. Hamfest will be May 20, 1984 at the 4-H Fairgrounds. Prizes will be great this year and may have SIGECO back for High Voltage Demonstrations.

73's Elvin WB9VSS



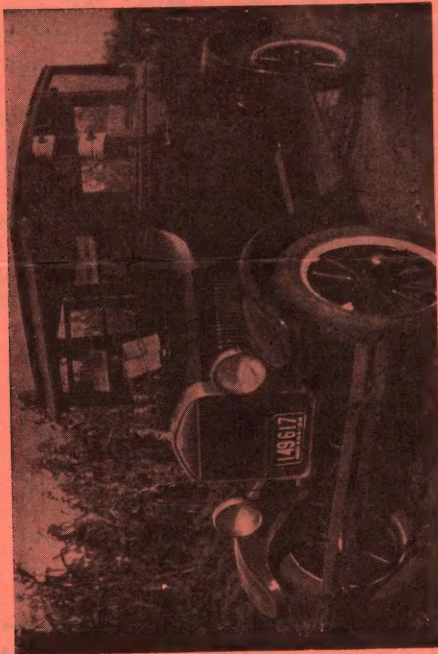
occasions in order to determine maximum ground wave possibilities. W9KVK and W9AIN have logged ground wave fixed stations more than 100 miles in each direction from Evansville, although we were never successful in two-way communications due to cross polarization of antennas and the high noise level at the fixed stations. Louisville, Ky., Indianapolis, Ind., Edwardsville and West Frankfort, Ill. and Nashville, Tenn. have all been received on a mobile receiver atop a hill where the only noise was that generated by the tubes near the sensitivity limit.

W9QLW and W9KVE working in cooperation with the Evansville office of Civilian Defense approached the city officials with a proposal relative to the future emergency use of discarded 81-megacycle police transmitters and receivers. With the aid of Mr. Walter Schuler, head of CD communications, the city granted the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society twenty-five mobile transmitters and receivers. This equipment was to be loaned to club members for amateur use, providing they installed and maintained the equipment for emergency service. Almost immediately all were spoken for and by spring of 1952 had been installed. Since then, monthly EC drills have been held, and many simulated disasters carried out. Drills last from one to two hours with net control being alternated between various members. Simulating the disaster effect of mock floods, tornados, fires, enemy attack, and earthquakes, the local drills have been interesting and educative. Plans are now under way for a second fixed club station to operate on the lower frequency emergency channels for intercity connections. Evansville, Indiana, and the Tri-State section is well protected through amateur radio communications in case of an emergency. The mobile amateurs will be operating from their automobiles long after all other modes of communication are washed out. Just as long as there is a battery within reach or a little gasoline available, our amateurs will be able to operate. No matter what the cause may be, our aim is to provide the necessary communications the people may need.

A few other prominent mobiles who have participated in our program are: W9UMS, W9JTU, W9MJU, W9YPP, W9JUH, W9RCD, W9CYN, W9JLE, W9CGM, W9DGA, W4OGB, W4RYM, W9ZZY, W9BBN, W9BAX, W9KAH, W9DDV, W9HTT, W9MFT, W9MOH, W9KIE, W9MWM, W9EHU, W9JFJ, W9LXW, W9HRH, W9SWN, W9NAT, W9NJR, W9OVV, W9NZC and W9RDI.

Another mobile activity which we are pleased to note in our section is that of the visiting mobiles. W4WD visits us from Louisville almost monthly, and W4SWD, W9JYP, W9IXO, W8TFG, W8JBL and W4UKM travel this way regularly and have been contacted many times. W8KFT, W4VFA, W6LBU, W4NXN, W9PYK, W9ENQ, W8EMD, W9EQZ, W9ABG, W9EH, W9FYR, W4PFZ, W9NJE, W9EVC, W8BFH and W3QZQ have been contacted while in our vicinity.

Many of our members work a lot of mobile either in travel or on vacation. W9KVE has traveled to Florida and the west coast while working mobile: W9KVK and W9NEC, to the west coast. (The latter is now W6PKM.)



Five-meter mobile, circa 1934. The brain-child of W9FGS and W9TGT, it was the first, though dubiously successful, mobile in the Tri-State section



A few of the boys exhibit their direction-finding antennas. From left to right: W9KIE, W9UMS, W9EHU, W9KVE, and W9DGA.

W9JUH to Oklahoma, W9IMI to Texas, W9CGM to New York, W9UMS to the Rockies, W9KVL to east and west coast, W9ZZY to west coast, W9JTU to Florida and Colorado, W4JQV to Florida, W9GWL to the Rockies and W9SWN to the west coast. Many fellows have been able to work "back home" when the proper skip was present. A number of lasting friendships have also been established with local amateurs when entering a strange city. Highway directions, hotel and motel information have proved very helpful through amateur radio. Visits to other clubs while traveling have been an interesting diversion.

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society is not a large club, although we count approximately sixty members out of some ninety licensed amateurs in the area. All members are active in club affairs and on the air. Almost all are now mobile equipped and get on at various times of the day or week. Our club, in addition to the Hamfest, sponsors other activities such as participating in Field Day, a two-day hobby show and a five-day Fall Festival each year. With the help of our XYL's and friends we have food provided for the Field Day, the Fall Festival and a large basket for the Hamfest. The XYL's also have their own monthly meetings where they play games, have picnics, or even have a speaker to talk on some subject of interest. W9MOH and W9MFT are the wives of W9KVE and W9JTU and both are active on the air mobile.

At various times a group of our mobiles have planned a week-end trip to other cities to meet other mobile operators. Amateur mobile has been employed on long trips to college football games and on short trips to IRE meetings which are held in Evansville and Owensboro, Kentucky. In case of car trouble amateur radio has proved a reliable help in securing gasoline for dry tanks, a push for a dead motor or a tool to repair some part of the automobile.

Hamfests and picnics have always been popular with the mobile amateur. Our mobiles always attend the V.H.F. picnic at Turkey Run State Park, the Indiana Radio Club Council picnic, the Mammoth Cave picnic and other not too distant gatherings. Fishing parties to Kentucky Lake, Crab Orchard Lake and Seales State Park are also in great demand by our mobile fraternity.

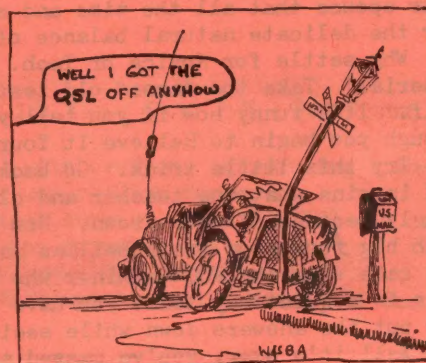
Our club annually sponsors a Hamfest in Evansville and for the past three years mobile interest has been the predominating feature. Contests such as measuring actual transmitter power output with a Bird wattmeter or for the best commercial and home built mobile are usually staged. Mobiles from over one hundred miles become our guests for a day and many friendships of the sight-unseen, of variety are made, permanent at these personal meetings. Our club feels indebted to the many fine amateurs who annually visit us during our September Hamfest.

Our mobile gang of the Evansville-Henderson area have also had a great deal of fun during our annual mobile transmitter hunts. W4RYM and W4PKX engineered our last hunt in May of this year when the location selected was at the junction of the Green and Ohio Rivers. It was possible to arrive at this point from only one direction, although many dead-end roads

came within a mile or so of the actual hiding place. W9EHU traveled the shortest distance possible, in an arc of 270 degrees, to win this contest in fifty-five minutes.\* Then, after the prizes had been won, the mobiles were directed to the camp where they were plied with plenty of home-made ice cream and cake. They returned home tired, but happy and well fed.

Mobile operation has, in short, offered to us new fields for experimentation and development, and a welcome diversion from the everyday scheme of fixed operation. It is, in addition, an inestimably valuable community service—One more brilliant facet of our hobby of hobbies.

\* Loop antennas are popular for such a hunt and work into the mobile converters with good efficiency. One 20-inch diameter turn of 1/4-inch copper tubing connected at the open end with a 35 µf. capacitor to tune to 29.6 mc. makes a good, rugged loop. A broom handle secured to the tubing opposite the tuning capacitor provides a means of holding the loop above the car while in motion. The converter is fed through RG-8/U, RG-58/U or similar cable and is connected at a point approximately four inches to one side of where the handle joins the loop. The outer jacket of the co-axial cable is soldered exactly at the handle juncture.



Don't Forget!  
to watch for our feature DX ISSUE—  
Next Month!



The Tri-State Mobiles in review. Representing approximately 25 per cent of the club's total membership, they are, from left to right: W9KIE, W9KVL, W9HRH, W9SWN, W9SHQ, W9NAT, W9ZZY, W9FGS, W9AIN, W9KVE, W9CZF, W9MJV, W9RCD, W9MWM, and Skip Johnson, SW!



March 84



## SPARKS

### Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

#### OFFICERS:

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
V.P.: Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Sec.: Elvin Reed WB9VSQ  
Treas. Joyce Spencer KA9CPE

#### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers KA9EIV  
Bill Spencer WD9HUK  
Harold Muensterman N9DEO  
Michael Knott N9DEV  
Charlie Finke WB9NQD

EDITOR: Mike Anderson KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*  
\* TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond &  
\* Heidelberg Avenues at THE RED CROSS building.  
\* Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM  
\* Evansville Time. The officers & directors meeting is held on the third  
\* Thursday at 7:00 PM in THE RED CROSS building.  
\* The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Local  
\* time on the W9OG repeater 147.75/15 Alternate repeater 146.19/79  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 958  
Evansville, IN 47706

TO:

If you have questions about SPARKS or an article for it please contact the editor.

## SILENT KEY ELLIS CARSON VP2KC

Amateur radio lost a longtime friend and supporter last week with the death of Ellis Carson (VP2KC). Mr. Carson Founded Sky Service Corporation, an aviation sales & service operation. He later founded Sunbeam Plastics. Since his retirement in 1978 he spent much of his time on the Caribbean Island of St. Kitts in the West Indies.

Ellis was an aviator & until recently flew his own plane back and forth from the USA to St. Kitts. During WW II he was in the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew the route from India over the Himalayas "Flying the Hump." An exhibit of aviation memorabilia collected by Mr. Carson is now on display at the Evansville Museum.

VP2KC was one of the most extensive and sophisticated amateur radio stations in the Caribbean. Propagation characteristics were exceptionally good and VP2K land is a much sought after "new country" by hams all over the world. In 1980 VP2KC set an All Time World Record in the CQ WW DX Contest under the team multi op class.

T.A.R.S. will long remember Ellis Carson for the award he established in 1977 to honor his longtime friend John E. McCutchan. The McCutchan award is one of the most prestigious awards a T.A.R.S. member can receive.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Renew your 1984 Membership \*  
\* T.A.R.S. Regular Dues ..... \$ 8.00 \* Mail Check made payable to TARS & send to \*  
\* Repeater Dues ..... 12.00 \*  
\* Total \$20.00 \* Joyce Spencer, KA9CPE, Treasurer \*  
\* 1550 South Burkhardt Road \*  
\* Senior Citizens (over 65) ..... 8.00 \* Evansville, Indiana 47715 \*  
\* Students-club dues only ..... 4.00 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Pay Club Dues by 3/15/84 to continue receiving SPARKS.



## KRE's Korner

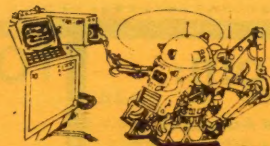
Robert (Bob) Bengert has to be the luckiest guy alive. Bob left with the lions share of the BINGO Prizes at the February meeting. Bob has been instructing a Novice Class at Oaklyn Library and just graduated them into the ranks of Amateur Radio. He is starting a General Class on March 27th, so if you know anybody that is interested have them get in touch with Bob or see Dan or Rick at the Ham Shack. I just called Bob to confirm that date and found that he is in Spain for 10 days--How about that for working DX?

I went to the INCERT meeting the first part of the month. We talked about the new laws that went in effect recently. D.W.I. and Child Restraint. Don Jackson and Bob Curry did a fine job of getting the point across. Don't Drive while drinking and if you have children or grandchildren you better have an approved seat for them. We are going to try to get them to have a program for us at a meeting later on in the year. Also, I am sure everybody remembers the coal truck driver that drove his truck off of The Gil Hodges bridge North of Petersburg to avoid an accident. His body has never been found and INCERT is asking for volunteers sometime around the first weekend in April to help locate the body. I understand his Mother has been there everyday looking for him by herself. I am sure any help will be appreciated. They will need small boats and 4 Wheel drive vehicles. More about this later on.

Program for March will be put on by the good people at the Weather Bureau. We haven't had them out for a couple of

years, so this will refresh our memories and help our new ham members know what to do in the event of a weather emergency. See you at Red Cross Building 7:30 PM March 8, 1984

73's Jim  
(KA9KRE)



I am setting here at the computer wondering how to get it to shovel snow. In a few short weeks the Hamfest will be here. If everyone will help when asked by Blanche (KA9EIV); Reluctant Hamfest Chairperson; the Hamfest will be a real success. Blanche & committee are planning a great Hamfest this year. For the first time in a number of years we will have activities for the non Hams in the crowd. For one thing we will have BINGO, several surprises are in store this year, more in future Sparks. Major Prizes were chosen to have a wide range of interest to Hams & non Hams alike. The kids would love to have the Color TV; Mom or Grandma could use the Microwave Oven. We are hoping to sell most of the major door prize tickets prior to the Hamfest. If you would like to get some advance tickets to sell just ask Blanche for them.

Peggy (K9JUU) will present a traffic forum this year it should be an interesting program. The S.I.G.E.C.O. HOT SHOW will be back; if you didn't see it last year, it could save your life. The danger in antenna work is often overlooked in the haste of spring fever.

73's Mike  
KA9LQM

Feedback  
de KA9LMO

My husband's dipole looks like a giant icicle. Isn't winter grand? Who else has a hobby that looks like a vanilla Popsicle this time of year! Oh well maybe if it snows enough the neighbors won't even know he's a Ham.

Speaking of neighbors aren't they grand all year round; they are so very friendly to Ham neighbors. They come pounding on your door the minute their poorly made electronic equipment goes googoo gaga. I thought that one new neighborhood we had just moved into was very political because I always saw petitions circulating. Funny thing was though that they never came to our house till the petition was completed. It had language that mentioned lynching, tar and feathers and something about a rail out of town if a certain tower didn't come down. Looking back I begin to see a pattern in all our moves, petitions followed by moving trucks.

Neighbors can accuse you of very bizarre things. For instance, could anyone keep a straight face as the lady next door tells you that her stud French Poodle is sterile because of your radio?! It was time to call the moving trucks again.

From all of the above I can only say that Amateur Radio is a great way to see the country. It also keeps you very sharp mentally, you would be amazed how many ways we have learned to camouflage an antenna.

73's Carolyn



## SMALLTALK

Who says we have not made great strides in Amateur Radio. The following article was written in 1952 as a letter to the editor of QST and is quoted in part.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

TARS MONTHLY MEETING FEB. 9, 1984 7:30 P.M. A.R.C.

## New Business

1. Technician and General class upgrade will be offered starting March 27, 1984 at Oaklyn Library. Check with Bob Bengert for further info
2. The FCC Test for upgrading will be offered in Louisville in May. Your notice of intent is due six weeks prior to the test date.
3. President Jim (KA9KRE) attended an INSERT meeting and reported the upcoming activities.

## Old Business

1. None -- The program was BINGO lots of prizes. Bob (AK9G) WAS THE BIG WINNER. Me (WB9USQ) or rather my wife won a 2 meter power supply -- 2 six volt batteries, isn't that wonderful.

TARS BOARD MEETING FEB. 16, 1984 7:00 P.M. ARC

## New Business

1. Fred Cottrell (Manager of ARC) presented a new operating agreement to the board. With a few minor changes it was agreed we would vote on it.
2. Scoutarama will be held in Thresherman Park in Boonville on May 5 & 6. The Scout Council requested TARS to set up and operate a Ham Station. We voted to comply with the council. Dan (N9APA) said he would help with the equipment.
3. The Weather Bureau will present the program for march.

## New Business

1. ARC has consented to mail Sparks at their bulk rate.
2. We will again be helping with the Freedom Festival & Boat race.
3. Hamfest tickets were passed out and they will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. We hope the club members will have a large Pre-Hamfest sale of tickets. All members will be called on to help in some way. When you are called please help and make 1984 TARS HAMFEST the Biggest and Best.

Meeting Adjourned 9:30 P.M.

Elvin WB9USQ

## USAF COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS

No technical advances have eliminated the need for the Manual Radio Operator. To date, we have no automatic method that can in Size, weight, Frequency Economy & Simplicity compare with CW Telegraphy. We have no system which will discriminate against accidental or intentional interference to the extent possible with a trained operator.

There is no electronic substitute for an operator's brain. Under marginal conditions the flexibility, simplicity, and reliability of a CW Circuit frequently means the difference between having communications and not having them. Where we can use them. We will employ radio teletype, facsimile & television techniques, in the foreseeable future, however we see no replacement for the manual radioteletype operator in the field for which he is peculiarly adapted.

We feel the continued interest of the ARRL in the maintenance of a high standard of radiotelegraph operating ability among radio Amateurs has been most helpful. As the result of your program,

which includes the reservation of a proportionate share of Amateur frequencies for exclusive CW use we feel that the cause of national defense has been advanced.

Several modes reign supreme over the computer in coping code. If any one disputes this statement; bring your computer to field day and we will be glad to try it out.

73's  
John (W9FHA)



## HAMFEST SCHEDULE

Relayed by KB9NR

Martinsville	March 13	State Fairgrounds
Dayton	April 27 - 29	
Centralia	May 6	
Evansville	May 20	4-H Fairgrounds
Terre Haute	June 3	
Indianapolis	July 7 & 8	
Bloomington	Sept. 2	
Louisville	Sept. 22 & 23	
Bedford	October 7	

We will try to keep you informed & updated on Hamfests scheduled thruout the summer. If you have information on additional Hamfests please send it to the Editor of Sparks so this Schedule can be updated.

## CHICAGO FCC TEST SCHEDULE

The FCC has given new schedules for examinations in 1984. Those who want to travel to Chicago will have ONLY 3 opportunities this year to take the exam. Applications (Form 610) must be received at the Chicago Office before the cut-off dates shown send form 610 to:

FCC Field Office  
3940 Federal Building  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

Examinations will be held:

May 7 thru May 11	Cut-off Date April 15
Aug 6 thru Aug 11	Cut-off Date July 15
Nov 5 thru Nov 9	Cut-off Date Oct 15

Tests are also tentatively scheduled for the Dayton Hamfest. Write to be sure and also to get cut-off date for the Dayton Tests.

## SHUTTLE SCHEDULES de WA9OC0

Launch Date	Flight Name	Orbiter	Duration (Days)	Crew	Payload
Apr. 4	STS-13 (41-C)	Challenger	6	Robert L. Crippen, CDR Francis R. Scobee, P George D. Nelson, MS James D. Van Hoften, MS Terry J. Hart, MS	LDEF (Long Duration Exposure Solar Max repair)
June 4	STS-14 (41-D)	Discovery	7	Henry W. Hartsfield, CRD Michael L. Coats, P Judith A. Resnik, MS Steven A. Hawley, MS Richard M. Mullane, MS Charles D. Walker, PS	Large Format Camera OAST-1 Telesat-1 Syncom IV-1
July 14	STS-15 (41-E)	Challenger	7	Thomas K. Mattingly II, CDR Loren J. Shriver, P Ellison S. Onizuka, MS James F. Buchli, MS	Dept. of Defense flight

## LETTERS TO EDITOR

As one of the Wed. evening net control stations for the Tri-State Emergency Net, I am concerned over the decline in the number of check-ins.

The net has several purposes--to prepare in the event of a real emergency--to acquaint one another with all area "Hams" so that when you hear his or her call you know what part of the Tri-State he or she is reporting from--club announcements as to meetings and other forth coming activities--health & welfare reports--Bulletins--traffic handling swap shop--informals. It's a nice place to meet & get up to date information. If you do not hear what you are wanting to know, then ask questions.

It's true, we can't all make it every Wednesday evening. There are other meetings, church services, ball games, etc. and it seems like that is Pres. Ronald Reagan's TV Time. Maby some of you do not have 19/79 capabilities. Hopefully, by the time this is printed the 75/15 will be back on the air.

Perhaps you are tired of hearing the same net control stations. The position is open, anyone is welcome to take it. I'll give anyone interested a list of regular check-ins and also a format for calling the net. Paul (K9JSK), Jim (KA9KRE), or Blanche (KA9EIV) will be grateful for your assistance or replacement.

73's Blanche (KA9EIV)

## SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Heath HW-8  
GRP CW Transceiver with  
HWA-7 AC power supply &  
headphones.  
Excellent Condition \$135.00  
Morris Johnson, K9PAR





# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

April 1984

### OFFICERS:

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
V.P.: Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Sec.: Elvin Reed WB9VSQ  
Treas. Joyce Spencer KA9CPE

### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers KA9EIV  
Charlie Sartore KA9I KB  
Roy Cloukey KA9IWP  
Bill Spencer WD 9HUK  
Harold Muensterman N9DEO  
Charlie Finke WB9NQD

EDITOR: Mike Anderson KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

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\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 958  
Evansville, IN 47706

TO:

## JOIN ARES NOW

ARES  
Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Licensed Amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communication duty in the public service when disaster strikes. You need not be a member of ARRL or any other local or national organization to be eligible for membership in ARES. You need only to hold an amateur license and have a sincere desire to serve. Emergency-powered equipment is desirable but not required.

There are three levels of ARES organization -- National, Section, & Local. At the local level is where most of the real emergency organizing gets accomplished, because that's the level at which most emergencies occur. Usually, local ARES operation will take the form of Nets -- HF, VHF, RTTY, and even ASCII.

Other activities for ARES members besides emergency communications are alerts, test or drills and special exercises such as Freedom Festival Parade -- Thunder on the Ohio -- Bike Races. The tornado drill in March each year and the SET (Simulated Emergency Test) in October are two important exercises.

Ed Estes, WB9RWB, Vanderburgh County EC (Emergency Coordinator) has asked my assistance in bringing the local membership file up-to-date. By the April TARS meeting I should have the membership forms. If you want to be an ARES member and are unable to attend the meeting, get in touch with me and I will get the form to you to be filled in and signed. Phone 424-9182 or write me at 840 Herndon Drive Evansville, IN 47711

## APRIL FOOL

The April meeting will be fun for all with the newest ARRL Videotape of the STS-9 Mission. Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier is now Here. Come to the April meeting (No Fooling) it is an interesting tape.

Will have a great prize drawing & will give away a jar full of real MONEY. The green stuff not a jar full of pennies; would I do that to you as an April Fool Joke; no way.

Check your mail label; if it has \*\*\*\* in the top line you just got 4 lemons for not paying your 1984 dues. I will hold your May Sparks for ransom until dues are paid. So get out your pen and send to:

Joyce Spencer, Treas.  
1550 Burkhardt Road  
Evansville, IN 47715

You have been cut off this is not an APRIL FOOL JOKE.



## KRE's KORNER

Spring has sprung and it seems nobody can stop the rain. I have saw flooded spots in town that haven't even been wet before. That may be an exaggeration but we have had plenty of rain with places flooded that haven't been flooded before.

The Weather Net has been activated three times already and we aren't into the storm season yet. Ernie Block (K1G76) from the weather bureau presented the Weather Program at the last club meeting. Ernie did a fine job of presenting the program and answered a lot of questions about the weather and storm conditions. He also praised the Amateurs for the help given during severe weather. All they have at the Weather Bureau is radar and nothing beats a pair of eyes in the severe weather area to keep them informed of what is actually happening.-- So Keep Up the Good Work.

Mike Townsend (W9KXP) also had a short film and a demonstration on static electricity which proved to be interesting. I think he convinced me not to take the top off of my computer -- at least not for awhile. The days of the screwdriver and a big hammer are passing on by as we enter the age of grounded wrist straps, floor mats, and probably a whole new list of four letter words as we watch a #6^\*% %#@^ chip self destruct because it was zapped by static when you touched it. Thanks to Mike for an interesting program. Also for the many

long hours spent keeping both of our repeaters going. It is a thankless job and the pay isn't worth talking about. Next time you see Mike or hear him on

the air give him a few words of encouragement; that has been his only pay.

Harold Muensterman (N9DE0) has agreed to help plan communications for the Red Cross at the Pennyrile Horse & Pony show on May 5th. and 6th. If you are free either one of those days and want to help please contact Harold or me and we will get you the details. I am sure Fred Cottrell of the ARC will appreciate all of the help he can get.

See you at the next meeting.

73 Jim (KA9KRE)

Swap Shop  
Tokyo High Power HL-82V  
2-Meter Amplifier 10 watts  
In 80 watts Out \$125.00  
Johnson 12 Amp Power Supply  
\$75.00 Rick Dennis / WB9QIW  
479-9973  
-----

Will the person who bought the small antenna rotator, control box & cable at the Auction be willing to sell it? If so contact Hank (W9RDJ) at 476-7601

## 1984 DUES

Mail club dues to:

JOYCE SPENCER, KA9CPE  
1550 South Burkhardt Road  
Evansville, Indiana 47715

## ARES Report

### ARES Activity

#### Weather Emergency Nets

March 15, 1984 6:00 pm CST to 9:33 pm CST

Hal, WB9FNN at National WX Service 6:00 to 8:30  
John, N4XI at National WX Service 8:30 to 9:33  
Blanche, KA9EIV, net control station 6:00 to 6:35  
Mike, W9KXP, net control station 6:45 to 9:33  
Jim, KA9FMD, relay station form 146.28/88 and 147.075/675

36 Stations reported in

March 19, 1984 5:45pm CST to 7:59 pm CST

WA9LOD, Bryan, at National WX Service 6:12 to 7:59  
KA9KRE, Jim, at National WX Service 6:12 to 7:59  
KA9EIV, Blanche, Net Control Station 5:45 to 7:59

39 Stations reported in

March 21, 1984 12:56 pm CST to 1:41 pm CST

Indiana Tornado Drill  
KA9EIV, Blanche, Net Control Station

50 Check-ins

Thanks to all who participated -- GOOD JOB



## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING 03/01/84

## New Business

## AUTO PATCH

1. Mike W9KXP gave a report on the auto patch.
2. It was voted to purchase a piece of equipment called a "Data Signal" which will give true tone to our touch tone pads, which should eliminate the miss-calls we have been having so often.
3. Ed, WB9RWB, will let the club have a phone line from his house to the tower which will cut the phone bill to less than half.
4. The cost of the "Data Signal" is approximately \$329.00

## TARS CLUB MEETING

## New Business

1. Any TARS member may take Red Cross First Aid Courses FREE. (Editors Note see Fred Cottrell for Details)
2. Need 10 - 15 Members to work the Pennyville Horse Show May 5 & 6 (Drive Red Cross Vehicles to Show & handle communications)
3. Need operators for the Scout-A-Rama May 5 & 6 Threshermans Park Boonville, Indiana
4. anyone interested in joining INCERT see Blanche, K9SEIV
5. A tentative date April 7 has been set to search for the body of the truck driver who crashed into the White River.
6. Mike reported on the repeater
7. Volunteers Exam Program -- If interested check with Hal, WB9FNN.
8. Program was given by Ernie Black from the WX Bureau.

## TARS BOARD MEETING 03/15/84

## New Business

1. Special Event Station for Freedom Festival is being planned. If interested see John (W9FHA)
2. Hamfest:
  - a. We are asking women to bake cakes for dinner
  - b. Needed - White Elephants for BINGO Prizes.
  - c. Editor Note: (Elvin is committee to clean up after the Elephants. Needed a BIG SHOVEL for ELVIN.
3. Get your Tickets and SELL-SELL-SELL (See Blanche)
4. Meeting Adjourned 9:00 pm

Elvin WB9VSQ



## COMPUTER CONSULTANT

I normally don't recommend Commercial Products or Services in this column; however; here's a PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT for all you with Computers at home.

Sure it's insured? Mine Wasn't! I found out too late that my homeowners insurance doesn't cover home computers with a business use. What about fire, theft, water damage, power surges are costly too. There is a reliable insurance company which will insure both hardware & all purchased software; very reasonable rates; regardless of use for Full Replacement after a \$50.00 deductible. If interested call me & I will give you full details, it could save you a big loss. This information was provided by an insurance agent who wishes to remain anonymous for the moment. My only encounter with lightning resulted in every IC in the computer exploding and most of the printed circuits were vaporized; Not a Pretty Sight. This could save you a real insurance nightmare. End of Commercial Message.

73

Mike K9SLQM

This will be a semi-regular column. If you have any questions on computers write & I will try to answer. Computer literacy will be required in the near future. If you would just like to keep up with the Kids let me know.



## Feedback de KA9LMO

Ah, Springtime, the dandelions are up and the daffodils are in a race with the crocus, the grass is greening and the birds are singing. Sounds wonderful right? Wrong again Turkey Lips. All of those beautiful signs from Mother Nature that spring is here are also warnings that the dreaded addiction that all Hams are subject to is near.

It's a horrible thing. It separates families, depletes the finances to desperate levels, and causes mass exodus. Yes my friends it is the dreaded Hamfest.

HFA (Ham Fest Anonymous) gives those living with addicts the first telltale signs that the habit is once again upon them. Look through all the recent Ham magazines for any information on the Dayton Hamfest. If you see water spots on the page this indicates drooling and drooling is only a step away from mapping out the route. Once they get to Dayton HFA advises that the battle is lost for the season. So remember, don't put a foot into Ohio until the 4th of July.

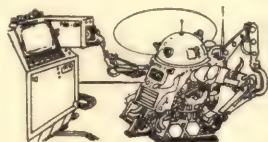
Another obvious sign is unusual amounts of cleaning and sorting of Ham Junk in the spring. If a lot of boxes suddenly appear watchout. Also check the car trunk frequently.

Look also for bright sheets of paper sticking out of things. HFA advises that addicts are very sensitive to bright colors. The dasterdly folk that organize these fests always print info about them on these type of sheets and send them to known and suspected addicts.

Lastly beware yourself for the Hamfest addict may try to trap you into his way of life. He'll be very clever. He'll tell you that there are many educational exhibits for the children. He'll also rave on and on about the fabulous crafts that so many of the wives sell. He'll tell of the gourmet meals served. beware lest you fall into the pit never to climb out.

I sincerely hope that this column has been of help to you. Now maybe all of you can help me. Mike (KA9LQM) left a few days ago with the car loaded to the gills with boxes. Said he was going on a Mercy Mission. Hmm, wonder why I can't find the Page with Ohio on it in the atlas. If you hear him on let me know.

73's Carolyn



Spring officially arrived on March 20th. according to the calendar above my desk. Looking out my office window I see SNOW; what a way to start the first day of Spring. Guess the people making calendars are having a laugh. Also only 56 Days till Christmas; I mean HAMFEST. Avoid the Hamfest Rush VOLUNTEER NOW!!!! Blanche (KA9EIV) will let you work in the area of your choice. Just a few Areas are Kitchen, Ticket Sales, BINGO, you name it & you can work it. Help is needed in all areas; Lets Make 1984 the Best Hamfest Yet.

Elvin, WB9VSQ, is looking for a few good Men & Women to work in the Kitchen. Lots easier than joining the Marines. Great Benefit; No Taxes taken out of your Pay; NO PAY EITHER.

OK you Horse Lovers, we still need folks to handle the communications at the Pennyrile Horse Show on May 5 & 6 at Griffen, Indiana. We will drive the Red Cross Vehicles to show and handle communications using the Red Cross Equipment & Frequencies. It is an open country race, similar, to a steeplechase. Ever see a steeple run; quite a sight not to be missed. If you are interested give Harold;(N9DEO) a call he is organizing this one. If you are driving an ARC Vehicle; Fred Cottrell has a form which needs to be filled out in advance. I will have a list at April meeting of those who filled in the Drivers License Check form in the past.

Not interested in Horses; have I got a deal for you; Scout-A-Rama is also on May 5th. & 6th. at Thresherman Park in Boonville. We will need several operators to work various modes; demonstrating CW, SSB, FM, possibly RTTY, 2 Meter MSO, ATV, etc. Any ideas or volunteers for Scout-A-Rama give Jim (KA9KRE) a call. We might get a new crop of Novices from the event, in any case good fun, inside out of the SNOW & RAIN. (Might Snow?)

73

Mike KA9LQM







#### OFFICERS:

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
V.P.: Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Sec.: Elvin Reed WB9VSQ  
Treas. Joyce Spencer KA9CPE

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Harold Muensterman N9DEO  
Charlie Finke WB9NQD

EDITOR: Mike Anderson KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

## SPARKS

### Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

1984

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*  
\* TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond &  
\* Heidelberg Avenues at THE RED CROSS building.  
\* Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM  
\* Evansville Time. The officers & directors meeting is held on the third  
\* Thursday at 7:00 PM in THE RED CROSS building.  
\* The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Local  
\* time on the W9OG repeater 147.75/15 Alternate repeater 146.19/79  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 958  
Evansville, IN 47706

TO:



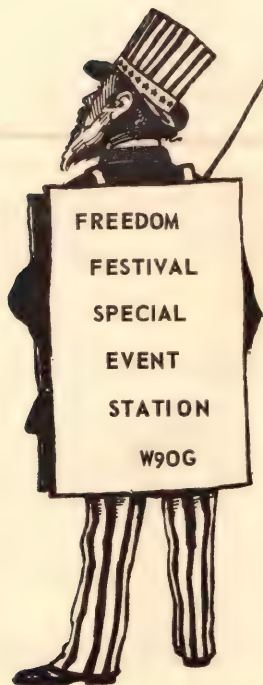
TARS will operate a Special Events Station in conjunction with the Freedom Festival and Thunder on The Ohio Hydroplane Races during the 4th. of July Weekend.

Anyone interested in working the Special Events station should contact John Small (W9FHA) who is handling details on the setup and scheduling of the station. If possible we will operate from a location on or near the riverfront area. See future Sparks for more details.

The Station will use the club call W9OG (W 9 Old Glory) which is very appropriate for the July 4th. Festival. Operations will begin on June 30, 1984 and continue daily through July 4, 1984. Hours of operation will be 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM CDT in the lower portions of the Novice & General segments of the 10, 15, 20, 40, & 80 Meter Bands. All modes will be used including RTTY.

An attractive 8 x 10 Certificate will be available to confirm contacts with the Special Event Station for \$1.00 Postage. Certificates will be packaged flat and be suitable for framing. For those who do not wish a certificate a special QSL Card will be sent confirming all contacts. Please include 20¢ postage for the QSL Card.

Send QSO Information to:  
T.A.R.S. / Special Event Station W9OG  
Attn: M. G. Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732





Beginning Balance, April 27, 1984 \$2,855.37

Hamfest Income	\$4,153.67	
Interest Received	12.53	
	-----	
Total Income	\$4,166.20	+ 4,166.20

**Paid Out**

Hamfest Prizes	\$ 420.01	
Postage	31.42	
Hamfest Flyers	46.31	
Form Letters & Envelopes	22.46	
April Sparks Printing	25.00	
Raffle Tickets	30.80	
Hamfest Change	450.00	
New Phone Patch	419.00	
Hamfest Trophies	21.00	
Hamfest Food	600.56	
3 Element Beam	24.00	
75 foot Coax	26.25	
	-----	
Total Expenses	\$2,116.81	- 2,116.81

Ending Balance, May 30, 1984 \$4,904.76

**Treasurer Report for 1984 Hamfest  
Income**

Button Sales (Admissions)	\$1,503.00
Gate ticket Sales (Raffle & Hourly)	1,085.00
Flea Market	89.00
Auction	24.25
Tables	332.00
Book Sale	4.00
Advance Ticket Sales (Raffle)	308.00
Food Sales	808.42
	-----
Total Income	\$4,153.67

**Expenses**

Cash used for change	\$ 450.00
Advertisements	90.10
Hamfest Prizes	682.04
Flyers	46.31
Hamfest Buttons	245.00
Tickets	30.80
Trophies	21.00
Food	600.56
	-----
Total Expenses	\$2,165.81

Bills not yet received: 4-H Center Rental  
Coca-Cola

Net Profit on Hamfest thus far: \$1,987.86



# 1984 HAMFEST

## Sunday May 20



**6:30** A.M. c.d.t. 'til ?  
In Air-conditioned Comfort  
A FAMILY AFFAIR

**PLAN NOW!**

**4-H CENTER HWY. 41 N. EVANSVILLE, IND.**

### GRAND PRIZES

13" Color TV  
Microwave Oven  
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First prize is first choice, Second prize is second choice of remaining prizes, Third prize is the rest of above.

You Need Not Be Present to Win  
Attendance Prize Tickets at the Door

Donation \$1.00 — 6 for \$5.00

**DEALERS**

**FLEA MARKET**

**BINGO**

**TRAFFIC FORUM**

## CW CONTEST

## HOURLY PRIZES

**Admission \$3.00**

Children Under 12 FREE

### SIGECO HOT SHOW

GRAPHIC DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE DANGERS  
YOU COULD ENCOUNTER IF IMPROPER METHODS  
OF ANTENNA INSTALLATION ARE USED.

THIS PROGRAM COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Mail Advance Registrations to  
MIKE ANDERSON, KA9LQM  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

YES, TARS, I'd like \_\_\_\_\_ advance reservations  
for your 1983 Hamfest.

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tables or \_\_\_\_\_ booths at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each.

Amount of remittance enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

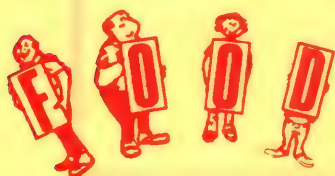
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

TABLES AVAILABLE INSIDE \$7.50 EACH  
10' x 10' INSIDE BOOTH \$15.00 (2 Tables)  
OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET \$3.00

*ADVANCE RESERVATIONS WELCOME*



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GATES OPEN AT 6:00 A.M.  
MAY 20th., 1984-- SUNDAY  
5 MILES SOUTH OF I-64  
4 MILES NORTH OF EVANSVILLE  
TALK IN ON 147.75/15 & 146.19/.79

JUICE, COFFEE, DONUTS  
LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE

AIRCONDITIONED BUILDING  
PLENTY OF PARKING

SEE YOU THERE!

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Center**

LAKE

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FLEA  
MARKET

VANDEBURGH  
RURAL 4-H CENTER

OLD HAMFEST SITE

BOONVILLE/NEW HARMONY ROAD

ADMISSION  
GATE

EVANSVILLE  
4 MILES

U.S. HWY. 41

5 MILES TO I-64

I-64

4-H  
CENTER

5 mi.

4 mi.

U.S. HWY 460

HWY 62

EVANSVILLE

IND. HWY 57

KY.

OHIO  
RIVER

HENDERSON

AUDUBON PKY.

HWY 41

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# HAMFEST '84 - Sun. MAY 20

**Tri-State Amateur Radio Society**

Post Office Box 3284      Evansville, IN 47732





## Hamfest

## DEALERS

## BINGO

## TRAFFIC

## FORUM

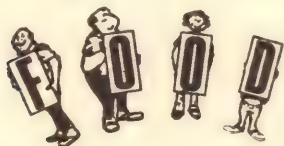


Welcome to the 1984 TARS Hamfest. This year we will have BINGO for the ladies; lots of great prizes. The QLF (left foot CW Contest) will separate the real CW operators from the rest of the guys who claim to be Good CW Operators.

We will have a QSL Card contest; don't know what the prizes will be but it should be interesting.

See the dealers for some Hamfest Specials also the guys in the Outside Flea Market Area should have some good deals. If help is needed loading your Boat Anchors see the Club President Jim KA9KRE. He should be in the area near the stage by the doors.

Thanks to Blanche KA9EIV and all the Folks who worked hard to make this Hamfest Possible.



## FLEA MARKET

# CW CONTEST

## Feedback de KA9LMO

Have you ever found yourself in that most unfortunate circumstance, alone with a 4 year old when the questions start. For example: Why is the sky blue? Why does a cat meow? Why does a bee buzz? As you struggle to answer the unanswerable you discover that you have a few crazy questions yourself.

I'll just cover some crazies that occur to me about Amateur Radio, other subjects might lead to commitment at a nice rest home.

Question # 1: Why does an otherwise finely tuned brain and intellect turn to mush while trying to learn CW? Give me those crazy formulas any day, even electrical theory is fun compared to the agony of listening for all those funny little sounds. I am firmly convinced that receptors within my ear or brain are missing for CW. When I advanced this theory to a local ENT physician he laughed all the way down the hall. Can't these guys recognize a serious medical problem when they hear about it?

Question # 2: Why do parrots only squack when you're DXing? For the uninitiated let me tell you that a parrot can give a ENT in the preceding paragraph a lot of business. The noise of a rock band is inconsequential compared to a grumped bird. Mike and I are gracious enough to share our ham shack with the birds. Yet they always want to croon when you are getting that really long DX. I'm sure there are many confused operators around the country that just can't figure out what all that strange interference is in Evansville.

Question # 3: Why when I hear someone with an out of town or state call requesting local information does the air suddenly go dead? There must be a universal mathematical theory concerning this strange response as it happens when we travel too. I assume that on any one repeater anywhere from 5 to 50 operators are listening. I also know that amateur radio operators strive to help each other whenever possible. Therefore some strange type of filtering must be taking place, after all we wouldn't ignore the request of an unknown operator would we?

Question # 4: Why does the newest innovation to hit the radio equipment market find it's way to the magazines and store shelves the day after you've bought your new rig? Personally I think that #4 is the real reason for hamfests.

Well gang there are just a few of my cosmic questions, if anyone out there has the answers please keep them to yourself, after all what's life without some mystery!

73

Carolyn

## SIGECO HOT SHOW

GRAPHIC DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE DANGERS  
YOU COULD ENCOUNTER IF IMPROPER METHODS  
OF ANTENNA INSTALLATION ARE USED.

THIS PROGRAM COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Public Service Band Freqs. of  
Interest to local Scanner Buffs.

153.950 MHz	Evansville Fire Dept.
154.190 "	Evansville Fire Dept.
155.130 "	Evans. Police Dispatch
155.190 "	Evans. Police Detective
155.370 "	Area Police Net (Link)
155.490 "	Henderson Police
155.790 "	Henderson State Police
155.820 "	Vand. County C.D.
162.550 "	NOAA Weather



## Computer Hacker de KA9LQM

Well since the Movie "Wargames"; Computer Hacker may have a bad conatation. Guess I will just have to live with it. Back to the real world of Computers. If you have tried to interface any general purpose CP/M machine to a Ham Radio you know the nightmares that can and do happen. If you want to use one of the low cost (i.e. VIC-20 or Commodore 64) machines, several manufacturers now make very good, reasonable cost CW / RTTY / ASCII units which work well. However, if you desire to use the old reliable industry standard (Computer Industry that is) CP/M micro, all sorts of new and interesting problems develop. It seems each has a different industry which they picked to standardize with. Until recently it required building your own interface / modem card to access RTTY / ASCII MSO's etc. Modern electronics or should I say IC's to the rescue. A new Universal Terminal Unit is available from the folks at Kantronics. The UTU is close to being universal in that it uses the RS-232 output / input port on your computer. Most if not all of todays systems can use this almost industry wide communications protocol. By placing a microprocessor in the UTU your computer in fact is treated like a dumb or smart terminal as you prefer. It can be used as a simple unit with a short data transfer program using the "INKEY" functions (available on most of the Microsoft (tm) BASICS. If you want to add bells & whistles to the program you may do so with relative ease.

This unit not only supports CW / RTTY / ASCII/ it includes the new AMTOR modes as well. Scope outputs aid signal tuning and operator ease seems to have been engineered into the unit. I have used it for a few weeks and the "Bug Spray" is still on the shelf. Haven't had to use it yet.

One problem is you must provide your own terminal program to use with the UTU. Many fine public domain programs exist and are available from Users Groups or writing a short program is aided by the examples which are given for some of the more popular systems.

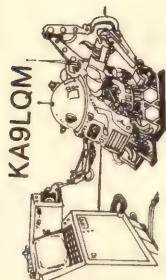
The cost of the UTU is about the same as the interfaces for the VIC-20; however you save the cost of a specific software package for your machine as the Terminal will operate with almost any computer on the market at the present time. I have used the UTU with a VIC-20, IBM PC, and a Morrow Design MD-3. All three computers worked very well using simple I/O Routines. An Apple (any Version) should work as long as you have a spare RS-232 port available. The idea of not having the interface & software dependent on a specific machine is a very nice feature.

I need to convince THE BOSS (KA9LMO) that she needs a UTU for her birthday.

73 Mike

## ARES Activity Report April 3, 1984

N9DEQ, Karl, at National WX Service 7:10 pm to 10:33 pm  
 KA9KRE, Jim, at National WX Service 7:10 pm to 10:33 pm  
 K9STX, Ralph, monitored 146.28/88  
 and relayed traffic 7:10 pm to 10:33 pm  
 KA9EIV, Blanche, Net Control station 6:48 pm to 10:03 pm  
 WB9FNN, Hal, Net Control Station 10:03 pm to 10:33 pm



## QUALITY QSL CARDS

500 Economy QSL Cards..... \$ 19.95  
 500 Custom Choice Cards..... 29.95  
 You select the Paper Type & Color, Ink Color  
 Standard Back Report..... N/C

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Extra Ink Colors (\$12/00 each extra Color)  
 Additional 500 Cards (\$16.00 for each 500)  
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# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

JUNE 1984

### OFFICERS:

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
V.P.: Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Sec.: Elvin Reed WB9VSQ  
Treas. Joyce Spencer KA9CPE

### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers KA9EIV  
Charlie Sartore KA9IKB  
Roy Cloukey KA9IWP  
Bill Spencer WD9HUK  
Harold Muensterman N9DEO  
Charlie Finke WB9NQD

EDITOR: Mike Anderson KA9LQM

BEHAGG & REED PRINTERS Day 424-2306 N3HARRIET  
Night 476-5572

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*  
\* TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond &  
\* Heidelberg Avenues at THE RED CROSS building.  
\* Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM  
\* Evansville Time. The officers & directors meeting is held on the third  
\* Thursday at 7:00 PM in THE RED CROSS building.  
\* The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Local  
\* time on the W9OG repeater 147.75/15 Alternate repeater 146.19/79  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 958  
Evansville, IN 47706

TO:



### FREEDOM FESTIVAL PARADE

#### CQ Field Day 1984

This year's Field Day will be for points! In 1981 & 82 we were out for blood and had lots of operators. Last year was "Just for Fun" and very few people showed up. So, this year we will be going for points with QRP Battery Power on CW. We can use lots of help and you need not be a "HOT CW OP" to participate. If you plan to be there; please contact me (867-7058) so we will know how to prepare.

The Club can provide food and drinks for everyone; but help is needed to coordinate the effort. If we can get enough people to participate, we will have a Novice Station and two other positions. Field Day is June 23rd & 24th and the parade is on June 30th, No Conflicts This Year.

73

W9FHA

Be part of the fun on June 30th in Downtown Evansville. The Freedom Festival Parade will begin at 6:30 PM on Saturday. Many events will take place Downtown Saturday and the Parade will be followed by a street dance on the walkway. Final plans are still being worded on but, parade communications will be similar to previous years. We will need 12 to 15 two meter operators with HT's. If you want to help but do not have an HT; we will loan you one. Details on parade communications will be broadcast on the Wednesday Night Nets.

John W9FHA



## AUTOPATCH

The autopatch will shortly be moved from its temporary home (KA9LQM Bird Farm) to the Red Cross. Fred Cottrell has provided TARS with a phone line which will enable us to provide a larger calling area; including Newburgh, and Evansville exchange area.

Brief summary of patch operations.

1. Access code is [12345]. You will hear CW Id (W9OG) followed by a 3 second dial tone. After the dial tone drops you have 3 seconds to begin dialing your number.

2. Since this is a simplex patch you can't hear the other person on the phone while transmitting and they can't hear you while talking.

3. The patch thinks a busy signal is your party talking; however at 20 seconds you hear the reset beep and have 3 seconds to transmit the disconnect code [1234] also the CW Id is heard 4 times before the 6 minute time out. You may reset the timer with the code [123] during the 3 second window after the CW Id.



# Chatter

Another "Hamfest" is behind us and I want to thank everyone who helped to make it the success that it was. I won't try to mention any names because I would probably miss somebody so -- to all of you that worked thanks again for a job "Well Done" Also a special "Thanks" to Blanche (KA9EIV) for the many long hours she put in. A Hamfest Chair-person's job starts around January and doesn't end until about a month after it is over. I think she did a real fine job putting it all together. She is really living up to the award she won last year.

We are going to have a pretty active & fun filled month for June and the first part of July. Field Day is coming up the 23 & 24th of June. We are going to need a lot of operators for that. We are going to be at the FOP Camp again this year; if anybody has any ideas for antennas come on out and maybe we can try them there are plenty of trees around. Also the Freedom Festival Parade is going to be held on Saturday June 30th. so everything is falling right in place. We will also start our "Special Events Station" that same day. How lucky can we be; see Johns "FHA" article elsewhere in Sparks for more details.

See you at the meeting ARC Building Diamond & Heidelberg on June 14th.

73

Jim KA9KRE



## SILENT KEYS

Msgr. Herman Mootz, K9URD, was found dead in bed on May 7th. at the Indianapolis home of his sisters with whom he resided. Founding Pastor of St. John Church, Evansville, he remained there from 1940 to 1967. On May 30, 1982 he retired as Chaplain of St. John's Home for the Aged in Evansville.

Oscar "Bud" Hendrickson, WB9MPL, Wheatland, Indiana passed away Monday evening, May 21. Bud who was a regular check-in on the activated weather nets had attended the Hamfest on Sunday. We will miss Bud and his weather reports from the Wheatland Area.

WN9FZC, Dave Hilgeman, 2805 Hartmetz drowned when he fell into a pond while fishing by himself late Friday Afternoon June 1. Dave was a regular check-in on the Wednesday evening net and the Warrick Co. Net on Tuesday evening.

Despite his disability of epilepsy, Dave was eager to help with communications during bike races, parades, etc. and was looking forward to this year's Freedom Festival Activities. Dave was proud of the "WN" call and when he up-graded to Extra class in 1983 he kept the call WN9FZC We will miss him.

## NAMES in the NEWS

### HAMFEST THANKS

I want to thank all those who helped, in whatever way, with the hamfest. It was a pleasure working with all of you. Without your co-operation and assistance we could not have done it. Looks like we will have operating money for another year. Thanks again

KA9EIV Blanche

### CONGRATULATIONS

Kearnie, K9QLB, and Dorothy Smith celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary with a reception at St. Johns United Church of Christ on Sunday May 13. We wish them many more happy years together.

### Special Events Station

The Special Event Station W 9 Old Glory will be recognizing the Freedom Festival Celebration. Operation will begin on Saturday June 30th and end on July 4th. Operation will take place in the Air-Conditioned Red Cross trailer parked on Riverside Drive near Court Street. The Ham Shack will furnish equipment; the Club will provide the operators with food; the operators will provide the contacts on SSB & CW to the world. Operators will be needed every day to make it a success. Please sign up for entire day or a couple of hours. Contact KA9KRE or W9FHA for additional details.

W9FHA



## Feedback

de K9SLMO

This is another column to warn all YL's and XYL's about something very sinister that is about to enter the amateur radio world. Remember well the next 3 words - Voluntary Examiner Program! Rebel now before one of our great rewards is removed, namely bribery. How you ask does bribery enter the world of Amateur Radio, well read on and you'll quickly see.

Truth time ladies, how many of you that are licensed undertook the chore because of a overwhelming love of electronics? If you are honest you'll probably admit that the constant badgering of a man drove you to it. It might have been a father, brother, husband or boyfriend who led you into this life of FCC and capacitors. Or it might have been the desire to see the above male and be a small part of his life, the ole' join em' if you can't beat em' syndrome.

Now since Evansville doesn't have a local FCC office the testing required always had to take place out of town. Indianapolis, Louisville and Chicago are my favorite testing places. They have shopping, car racing, shopping, horse racing, shopping and Lake Shore Drive to their various credits. Are you beginning to get my drift here?

The above male that doesn't want to make the trip a dozen times can make some wonderful suggestions, read that bribes, to you. For example, "Honey if you pass your test we'll go to the Drake for lunch to celebrate." The word Drake is optional, L'Francis can fit in there very easily (according to a national magazine this is the 3rd finest French restaurant in the country). Other things like "Pass the test today and I'll take you to Marshall Field so you can buy yourself something special" sound wonderful too.

The Voluntary Examiner Program will end all of the above. When this program is in full swing local Hams will test aspirings Hams. It will not be necessary to travel to all of those wonderful cities and collect your bribes any longer. Instead of lunch at the Drake it'll be a Big Mac you know where. Protest ladies, stand up and fight for your perks.

I am the first to admit that Amateur Radio is a wonderful hobby and I'm happy the OM talked me into it. But I don't see our Representatives and Senators giving up their junkets abroad so why should I give up my trips to Chicago? So write the FCC and anyone else you can think of that might help. In the meantime go for the test-trip package before it becomes extinct! I wonder if I can con Mike into believing that I am ready to take my General?

73's Carolyn

Editors Note: "NICE TRY BUT IT WON'T WORK THIS TIME"

### NEW OHM STANDARD

Recently, the official one ohm standard kept at the International Bureau of Standards in Paris was measured and showed .99999999851 ohms. This came as quite a shock to the world of Amateur Radio community.

It would be wise to immediately recalibrate your equipment.

## EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

The ARRL Special Service Club (SSC) program is alive and well! One by one, the pieces are being put into place as the program becomes integrated into the ARRL operating structure. Three important steps have recently been taken which offer direct benefits to the SSC:

First; SSCs are listed in the ARRL Repeater Directory. Second; SSCs are now receiving listing of new hams and new ARRL members in their areas. Third; the SSC Handbook has been distributed.

The first two features will help spread the word about TARS. The Purpose of the ARRL SSC program is to broaden local amateur club activity into areas which may not be covered but are important to the hobby. The SSC functions in a way that presents amateur radio in a positive light. There is no magic in being a SSC; based on the information I have; TARS could qualify with little more than requesting SSC Status and filling out the necessary paperwork. There are Tangible benefits for TARS to become a Special Service Club. How about helping out when asked to volunteer for Field Day, Special Events Station, Freedom Festival Events & Parade. If we all work together TARS can become only one of the few SSC in the Nation. Right now there are only 5 SSC in Indiana; not a great number out of over 200 Clubs. Think about it; be proud of TARS and Amateur Radio. 73 K9SLQM

### Testing at Chicago

FCC Form 610's must be in by July 15th. for eligibility in the August 6th. thru August 11th. Test Period.

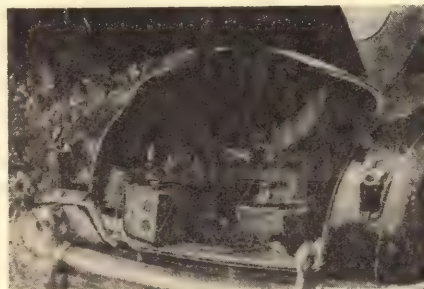


Little if any changes can be detected in the methods of operation or the equipment used in Field Day Operations. Below are some photo's taken out of the August 1950 CQ. Come to Field Day and help John (FHA) and the Gang. Who knows in 25 years some other ham may be looking at photos of YOU and your Antiques.

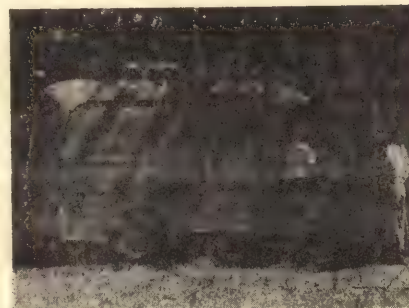
## FIELD DAY AS WE 1950 SAW IT



Final assembly of the 10-meter rotary and unloading the spares from the trunk just before the 4 o'clock deadline marks the real beginning of Field Day.



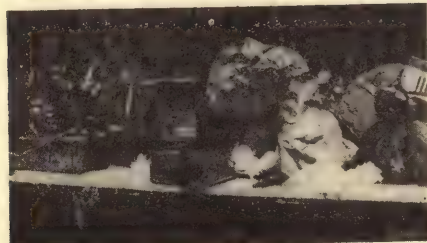
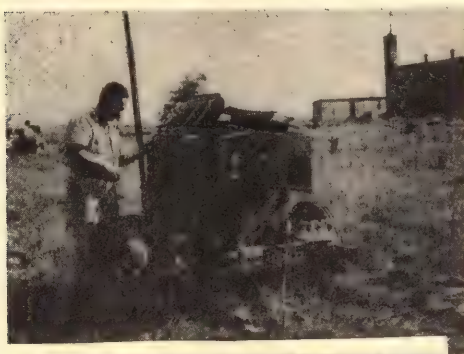
Operation in the car is not unadulterated comfort.



FD operation in grand style.



Ah, yes, the solitary op!



AUGUST, 1950



The chef, of course, is King of the gang.

**\$29<sup>75</sup>**  
each



### Look at these Sensational Features

● Dishes Dry by Themselves! ● Easy to Use—Slip hose on faucet . . . put in dishes . . . turn on the water! ● Fits on Drainboard ● Holds 16 Dishes at once . . . Extra Basket for cups, saucers and silverware.

● No Motor . . . No Electricity . . . No Expensive Plumbing! ● Light Weight (only 12 lbs.), Rust-Proof Aluminum with Baked-on Finish. ● Double-Action Spray.

**THIS IS THE MOST STUPENDOUS BARGAIN THAT WE'VE EVER OFFERED. THESE DISHWASHERS WERE MADE TO SELL FOR MANY, MANY MORE DOLLARS THAN WHAT WE ARE ASKING. THEY ARE BRAND NEW; IN FACT, STILL PACKED IN SHIPPING BOXES.**

Because of the low price that we are selling these dishwashers for, we absolutely do not offer any guarantee or refund whatsoever.





# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

JULY 1984

### OFFICERS:

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
V.P.: Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Sec.: Elvin Reed WB9VSK  
Treas. Joyce Spencer KA9CPE

### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers KA9EIV  
Charlie Sartore KA9KB N9DYE  
Roy Cloukey KA9IWP  
Bill Spencer WD9HUK  
Harold Muensterman N9DEO  
Charlie Finke WB9NQD

EDITOR: Mike Anderson KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*  
\* TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond &  
\* Heidelberg Avenues at THE RED CROSS building.  
\* Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM  
\* Evansville Time. The officers & directors meeting is held on the third  
\* Thursday at 7:00 PM in THE RED CROSS building.  
\* The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Local  
\* time on the W9OG repeater 147.75/15 Alternate repeater 146.19/79  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 958  
Evansville, IN 47706

TO:

### KRE'S KORNER

As I said last month, the end of June and the first of July was going to be busy. Field Day didn't turn out as I had hoped it would. We had a blank spot here and there with only one operator at times thru the night but we still had a few thousand points and everyone that showed up had a great time. We had all the bonus points covered this time Thanks to Rick "WB9SAN" and his efforts in setting up a satellite station. N9DEO Harold, had his bicycle powered generator. Blanche, KA9EIV, relayed the Field Day Message at approx. 40 WPM/CW. (don't believe everything you read). It's hard to believe some 'HAMS' have never been to a 'Field Day' site and never enjoyed the thrill of 24 hour operation. By the way, John, W9FHA, set a new record of 38 contacts in one hour--I didn't make that many all night long--It was still a lot of fun and I am looking forward to the Oct. QST to see where we placed.

The Parade was a real success--Plenty of operators and everything went off as planned. Thanks to John, W9FHA, who attended all of

those meetings with the Parade Committee getting things lined up so we were on top of everything.

Charlie, N9DYE, had Thunder week End under control. Thru his efforts we had enough operators at the Aid Stations set up along the race course. My thanks to everyone who helped. We had a few emergency messages and a few routine telephone calls--plus a fine place to watch the races. It was dry where I was at the Red Cross Trailer. Once again Fred Cottrell came thru by letting us use the Red Cross Trailer for our "Special Events" station. Murphy's Law finally caught us and we didn't get started on time and as of this writing we haven't had a lot of contacts, but it isn't over yet and maybe things will change. We will let you know at the meeting Thurs. July 12th at the Red Cross Bldg. Program will be a slide show on the past antics of TARS members.

73

Jim, KA9KRE



T.A.R.S. Monthly Meeting June 14, 1984  
Red Cross Bldg.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1--Cliff McGuire, W9CM, audited the books of the 1983 Treasurer and they checked OK.
- 2--Mike, W9KXP, wants and needs help on the repeaters.
- 3--Field Day--June 23 & 24
  - 1--Set up Saturday morning
  - 2--Need help setting up
- 4--Mayor to proclaim June 18-24 Amateur Radio Week
- 5-- Dan, N9APA, will furnish the Field Day equipment.
- 6--Parade--6:30 Saturday June 30th.  
Help needed see John, W9FHA
- 7--Red Cross needs help for First Aid Stations race day.
- 8--Special Events Station--It will be located in the Red Cross Trailer  
Operating days will be from June 30-July 4. Operating hours--All day long. Help needed.

Elvin, WB9VSQ

T.A.R.S. Board Meeting June 21, 1984  
Red Cross Bldg.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1--Discussed how to improve on the 1985 Hamfest

NEW BUSINESS

- 1--Field Day will operate Q.R.P. 5 watts and under
- 2--Parade was discussed
- 3--Special Events Station--S.I.G. & E. Co donated \$100.00 to be used for food, drinks, etc.
- 4--Boat race--Help needed
- 5--Amateur Radio Week--Michael Vandever, Mayor of Evansville, Proclaimed June 18-24 Amateur Radio Week.

Elvin, WB9VSQ

\*\*\*\*\*

TRI-STATE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, Inc  
1983 Audit  
By W9CM

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>GAIN</u>	<u>LOSS</u>
Membership Dues	\$ 840.00	\$
Repeater Dues	837.00	
Hamfest food	210.40	
Hamfest prizes	402.56	
Hamfest Misc.	478.52	
Field Day		95.43
INCERT Donation		150.00
Red Cross Donation		500.00
Sparks		314.80
19/79 Repeater		668.54
75/15 Repeater		223.74
Amateur Radio Class	100.00	
Insurance		249.00

Cont'd



Audit cont'd

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>GAIN</u>	<u>LOSS</u>
Auction	\$ 19.17	\$
Meeting Refreshments		96.96
Meeting Bingo Prizes		72.90
Picnic		265.38
Christmas Party		532.59
Misc.		
	51.12	
TOTALS-----	\$2938.77	\$3169.34
NET GAIN or LOSS		\$230.57

\*\*\*\*\*

SILENT KEY

John Yochum, Jr, W9URQ, Princeton, In. passed away Thursday June 28. John, a regular check-in for many years on the Indiana and 9th region traffic nets, also acted as net control.

He was to have been presented a bronze plaque at this year's Indianapolis Hamfest in recognition of the many hours dedicated to Amateur Radio and traffic handling. In the past year he had 1894 pieces of traffic to his credit. W9URQ from Prince-tone will be missed.

NOTE of THANKS

Dear Members:

Thank you for the lovely arrangement of flowers. They meant so much.

David would have liked them. Thanks for being so thoughtful.

Sincerely,  
The Family of  
David Hilgeman  
WN9FZC

\*\*\*\*\*

READING THE MAIL

Les, W9LXA, and Louise LaVanchy will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary July 14.

Larry, W9ENZ, and Theresa celebrated 25 years of married bliss.

LaRue, W9LBS, and Bea Cleveland have moved into their new home at 6810 Green Hill Dr.

W9UMS, Al, found enough time between Freedom Festival activities to give away his youngest daughter.

KB9NR, Lloyd, and Geneva returned from a trip to the World's Fair, Atlanta Hamfest, Gatlinburg, and other Southern points of interest in time to celebrate their birthdays before taking off for a trip to Iowa.

KA9LMM and KA9LMO vacationed in Florida and Geoff, K9HCE, and XYL made a tour through the South and along the Southeast coast.

WD9HUK, Bill, and Joyce, KA9CPE, and family camped to and from the Grand Canyon.

Cont'd



Reading the Mail Cont'd

WB9RWB, Ed, getting away from the Indiana heat and humidity by going to Alaska for a couple of months.

How about K9HVI's new diesel van--wonder where he is going!

K9STX, Ralph, and K9STV, Shirley, have been putting miles on their van with a trip up north and 'ham' radio paid off when they had two flat tires and had to call for help.

Jim, KA9KRE, will surely have to go back to work to rest up from his vacation and WB9NQD, Charley, is spending part of his vacation putting an addition to his house.

WB9FNN, Hal, getting in shape to walk the 'Parade Route' by putting a new roof on his house--with the help of Carol.

How about----

KA9KRE, Jim, hiding out in the garage while KA9KRD, Delores, is frantically trying to reach him VIA radio and telephone.

WA9OCO, George, getting the June Sparks 3 days before the local members.

K8GIK, Paul, wearing out his new fishing equipment before he gets to the water.

Ken Parr, W9ANG, almost picked a blushing love-apple for his birthday--Explanation--a nearly ripe tomato.

KA9EIV, Blanche, celebrating the birthday this month that allows her to fish in Indiana without a license.

KA9KRD won a king size water bed and KA9KRE had to have a cistern dug to catch enough water to fill it.

The TARS LOGO decorated cake donated for the Hamfest auction by Penny, XYL of W9KXP, was enjoyed at Field Day. Very good as well as pretty.

N9DPQ, John, with a new call KD9JB--Who would put the phonetics of 'John Boy' to it???

\*\*\*\*\*

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE

Kenwood TS-520, VF-520,  
SP-520. Good condition  
with Microphone included  
\$500.00 Call "Hank"  
W9RDJ 812-476-7601  
Henry A. Galbraith  
1214 South Alvord Blvd.  
Evansville, In 47714

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AREA NETS

		PM
Tri-State	147.75/15	wed. 8:00
Double E	147.075/675	Tues. 8:00
Pike Co.	147.600/000	Tues. 8:30
Mt. Carmel	146.34/94	Tues. 9:00
Old Post		
Vincennes	146.07/67	Thur. 8:00
Bedford	146.13/73	Mon. 8:00
Shoals	144.61/145.21	Mon. 9:00



Random Bits de KA9LQM

## THE COMPUTER AS A TOOL !

The computer is a tool. Some people will learn to use that tool more easily and more efficiently than others. Why should anyone want to use a computer? What is the long term effect of using computers on a regular basis? If I want to nail a shingle on a roof, I use a hammer. If I need to roof the house, I would use a hammer.. a lot; or I might use a power hammer. I just put the power hammer where I want the nail and squeeze a trigger. To use the hammer I have to understand what it is used for, where to buy it and how to use it. I will have to consider cost. If I do not have enough information, I will not be able to make a good decision about using a power hammer to help roof the house.

A power hammer works on shingles better than 2x4's so it is suited for some nailing tasks better than others. To nail on a few shingles a power hammer is not cost effective; however If I were a professional roofer, the hammer will pay for itself within two jobs. Enough about hammers, too much work anyway, the above example is to illustrate a point that we usually consider a specific task and then try to find ways to accomplish that task more easily.

The approach most people seem to take with computers is to buy the computer and then consider how it can be used. Spending several hundred dollars on a Commodore 64 is a reasonable Educational Expense. Trying to use a C-64 as a full business system is not cost effective. However; because the C-64 is so flexible, it makes a very good RTTY, ASCII, or CW Machine when interfaced with Amateur Radios and you can still play games on it and come out the winner.

## COMPUTER HELP

How many programmers does it take to change a lightbulb? None, it's a hardware problem.

How many technicians does it take to change a lightbulb? None, it's a software problem.

How many marketing reps does it take to change a lightbulb? He'll get back with you tomorrow.

How many users does it take to change a lightbulb? None, it's not in the manual.

How many consultants does it take to change a lightbulb? None, they just do a needs asses'sment and send the bill just to tell you they don't know who changes lightbulbs.

How many sale reps does it take to change a lightbulb? None, they'll just sell you a new lamp.

As you can see from the above ramblings I do need a vacation; so guess I'll take one. While I am in Florida Working DX (sounds like a good excuse for a trip) Jim KA9KRE will be putting together the rest of the July Sparks. If he does a great job I can take more Vacations; however the hazards of Florida can be a hardship. KA9LMO will probably write on a few of the hazards such as Sharks, Sunburn, Iodine Poisoning (From all the Raw Oysters and Fresh Seafood). Thanks again Jim for getting the rest of the July Sparks Out.



ARES ACTIVITY REPORT

FREEDOM FESTIVAL PARADE\*\*

June 30, 1984 6:30 PM

Area covered--24 blocks of downtown Evansville--using 146.52 Simplex

13 amateurs taking part

W9FHA and N9DEO control operators

K8GIK signal to fire guns

WD9EDH lead parade in Police vehicle

KA9EIV, N9DYE, N9DEQ, W9KXP, WB9FNN and WB9QVR walkers in divisions

WD9EDE reviewing stand

W9UMS overall

KA9KRE fill-in

Thunder on the Ohio\*\*

June 30 and July 1, 1984

Ohio River water front using 146.52 Simplex

8 Amateurs taking part

N9DYE, Captain, N9EGI, KA9KRE, WB9QVR, WB9JVP, WA9IVE, WB9NQD and WD9EDH

\*\*\*\*\*

LINDA'S PICNIC

Hosted by Linda, WA9THM and Bob, AI9H

August 11th at Conservation Lake

3 PM to ?????? Eat at 6:00 PM

Bring a covered dish & table service for yourself, Drinks of  
Kool-Aid and Tea will be provided

Talk-in on 146.34/94 repeater



Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

044

tars  
W9AIN

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**OFFICERS:**

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
 V.P.: Mike Townsend W9KXP  
 Sec.: Elvin Reed WB9VSQ  
 Treas. Joyce Spencer KA9CPE

**DIRECTORS:**

Blanche Elpers KA9EIV  
 Charlie Sartore  
 Roy Cloukey KA9IWP  
 Bill Spencer WD9HUK  
 Harold Muensterman N9DEO  
 Charlie Finke WB9NQD

**EDITOR:** Mike Anderson KA9LQM  
 Day 424-2306  
 Night 476-5572

**SPARKS****Tri-State Amateur Radio Society**

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*  
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 \* Heidelberg Avenues at THE RED CROSS building.  
 \* Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM  
 \* Evansville Time. The officers & directors meeting is held on the third  
 \* Thursday at 7:00 PM in THE RED CROSS building.  
 \* The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Local  
 \* time on the W90G repeater 147.75/15 Alternate repeater 146.19/79  
 \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**from:**

Mike Anderson  
 Post Office Box 958  
 Evansville, IN 47706

**TO:****AUTOPATCH**

The new antenna for the autopatch has been installed on the tower at the Red Cross by KA9KRE & KA9LQM. Fred Cottrell has generously donated a private phone line for the autopatch and provided emergency power for the equipment.

Reverse Autopatch function will resume shortly and the number will be provided to tars members. Please DO NOT give this phone number to non club members. The reverse patch function has been abused in the past so keep the operation clean.

While on the subject if someone who isn't a club member asks you for the access code. Offer to bring the patch up for them rather than giving the access code over the air. We have not had a lot of problems here; however many ears are listening to our QSO's on scanners and some think an autopatch is a toy for time & temp calls, etc.

The T.A.R.S. Annual Communications Coordination Conference (Picnic for those of you who are not experts in writing expense account reports) will be held September 15th. (Third Saturday of the Month)

This years ACCC will be held at the same place as last year thanks to Jerry (WD9EDE). The Salem United Church of Christ in Darmstadt. If you need directions give Jerry a call or a map will be in the August Sparks.

Send your reservations to Joyce as soon as possible so we know how much food to order. The cost of the Conference is extremely high (See Reservation Form) however; we feel that it is extremely valuable continuing education in the many changes which are coming upon us in the world of Amateur Radio. If you do not come to this conference you might miss an important educational opportunity.

**P I C N I C R E S E R V A T I O N S**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*  
 \* I will need the following for the TARS Picnic  
 \* on the 15th of September.  
 \*  
 \* \$1.00 per club member (family free)  
 \* \$3.00 non-club members  
 \*  
 \* \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Dinners \_\_\_\_\_ Children's Dinners  
 \*  
 \* Mail Reservations & Checks to:  
 \* Joyce Spencer  
 \* 1550 South Burkhardt Road  
 \* Evansville, IN 47715  
 \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*



# Chatter

It's going to be hard to top last month's program. Thanks to Mike (W9KXP) and Harold (N9DEO) we had slides dating back over 10 years which proved to be very interesting. Who were all of those kids? Running up and down 150 foot towers, hauling buildings in the back of pickup trucks, moving the repeater building to it's new location by rolling it end over end, seeing some members with dark hair; and even some with hair. It was a lot of fun watching and hearing the comments. If anyone has any old slides or movies of past activities get in touch with me; maybe we can do it again at some other meeting.

By the time you read this we should have the auto-patch in its permanent location in the ARC Building, with the beam pointing towards the 75/15 machine it should work a lot better and we will have reverse call ability again. Also we are still looking for help for the repeater committee. Anybody that wants to help contact Mike (W9KXP) or Jim (KA9KRE) we still need to install a new power line to the repeater building. The old line has been there for over ten years and has many splices from tree limbs falling through it. We have the material all we need is the help to get it up in the air.

We are making plans for our annual communications coordination conference. It will be held at the same location as last year. (Salem United Church of Christ in Darmstadt) Thanks again Jerry (WD9EDE). The

refreshments will be on the same order as last year. The date will be September 15th. That is the Third Saturday of the month so we will combine that with our regular meeting. Elsewhere in Sparks you will find a reservation blank. Please fill it out and send it to Joyce Spencer at 1550 S. Burkhardt Rd. We will need these to know how much food to order-- so check your calendar and get your reservations in early. August meeting will be the ninth at 7:30 PM in the Red Cross Building. See you there. 73 Jim KA9KRE

## A BIG THANKS

A big thanks to all who helped with the Thunder on the Ohio, Freedom Festival Parade, Special Event Station and Drums on the Ohio.

As usual "Thunder" dominated the 4th of July Holiday. Amateur Radio provided emergency communications and assisted the Red Cross and others during the race and handled several pieces of formal traffic during the event.

John Small (W9FHA) did a great job of coordinating the Freedom Festival Parade (first time for an evening parade) and did such a great job we are trying to con him into doing it again next year.

The Special Event Station was not the success hoped for. All of the major Ham magazines gave us very good publicity, 73 devoted almost six inches of space to the announcement; however the number of QSL requests were about 15 out of some 60 to 80 contacts. QSL title will have to go to N9DYE since most of the QSL requests came from his contacts. Good Job for a first Special Event Station.

By the time you read this "Drums on the Ohio" will either be tomorrow or history depending on the speed of the Pony Express. Hal (WB9FNN) did a great job of getting everyone to Reitz Bowl. Every try to tell someone from out of town how to get there.



## LINDA'S PICNIC

Linda's Annual Picnic hosted by Linda (WA9THM) and Bob (AI9H) will be August 11th at the Conservation Lake.

3:00 PM to ????

Eat at 6:00 PM

Bring a covered dish & table service for yourself, Drinks of Kool-Aid and Tea will be provided.

Talk-in on 146.34/94  
Repeater



## AUGUST MEETING

The August Meeting will be the 9th at 7:30 PM Red Cross Building at the corner of Diamond & Heidelberg Avenues.

Program will be a slide presentation on astronomy by W0KPS, Laverne Johnson of Stendal, Indiana.

It should be a very interesting program.

Got an idea or know someone special for a club program, give Jim (KA9KRE) a call. (Editors Note: If you guys can't come up with some programs I can always bring one of the big snakes from the Zoo; wonder why NOBODY came to that meeting?)



## Feedback

de KA9LMO

## EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

I will warn you at the start that this is a fish story. A fish story for Hams you say? Well just listen to my tale and I think you'll agree that's it's quite fishy.

KA9LQM and myself recently trekked to the wilds of Florida over the July 4th holiday. It's rough work checking out all those tourist traps but somebody has to do it. We spent several delightful days visiting relatives and depleting the oyster population.

Then suddenly the big day was upon us. It started like any other typical tourist day at the local Goofy Golf. We were just finishing our hole with the swinging monkey tail when we hit a backlog of golfers and had to wait our turn on the wishing well. The golfers directly in front were bragging about a fabulous black grouper that they had caught at a nearby cove. Being the sportsman we are Mike and I dropped our clubs and ran for the car.

We reached the cove and indeed the fish were jumping. We rented a old row boat nearby and threw in a couple of rods and made ready to sail. Then Ye Olde Newsletter Editor decided he couldn't sail with out his HT and he ran back to the car. He came back with that, some coax, a handful of resistors and diodes and some other junk. What in the world he planned to do with the above I'll never know, sometimes it's best not to ask.

It wasn't long before we had a bite and we had caught our first fish. We tossed them in all afternoon and then late in the day we were bringing in the biggest one of all when a nasty fin cut the water and our line suddenly went slack. A shark had taken the snapper. Mike not to be deterred loaded his line with bait and cast for the evil giant. It took the bait and the line broke. He had almost given up when he spied the coax and quickly tied a hook on, baited it with a resistor and threw it over.

I was sure he had slipped a gear when the coax snapped and he begun his mighty battle. They fought each other for hours. Whenever the creature neared the boat he threw diodes like harpoons. Finally I decided to end it. I grabbed the handi-talkie turned it on and found static that only a Novice could create and aimed toward the poor creatures' hearing apparatus. Not being able to stand the pain it bellied up and we hauled it to shore. I recieved credit for the catch and we motored happily homesaved once again by Ham Radio junk.

Wow, wasn't that a great fish story?! And I imagine a lot of you doubting Thomas types don't believe a word past the Goofy Golf. Well maybe you're right, but do have KA9LQM show you a picture of a certain lady standing next to a very large fish! My motto is "Keep em' guessing" !

73's Carolyn

### NEW OHM STANDARD

Recently, the official one ohm standard kept at the International Bureau of Standards in Paris was measured and showed .99999999851 ohms. This came as quite a shock to the world of Amateur Radio community.

It would be wise to immediately recalibrate your equipment.

What a fish story KA9LMO came up with this month. Just ask me and I'll show you the photo of her so-called Shark, just to set the record straight.

However, HT's and the repeater could have came in very handy this weekend; we got a late call to sit up all night with a sick friend; actually she isn't sick just pregnant. Not an unusual occurrence unless you are a 500 pound Bengal Tiger. Very hard to haul to a Vet by Fire Dept. Paramedics, so it called for 24 hour a day tiger sitters. Carolyn & I got the chore from 10:00 PM to 2:00 AM last Friday night. It is strange to be locked in the Zoo grounds with just you and the Tigers. Having the HT by my side was very comforting since the nearest phone was about three blocks away. Wonder if that comes under the classification of Health & Welfare Traffic; who would argue with a Tiger in Labor anyway.

If you are bored with Amateur radio become a Zoo Docent, have lots of fun. You could bring Samantha (15 ft. Boa Constrictor) to field day she might be a good way to get antennas high in trees. Let her loose and watch to see who could get to the top of the tree with the antenna first. Just a thought, use the two Giraffe's (Jerry & Evie) as mobile antenna supports but they wouldn't hold still for that.

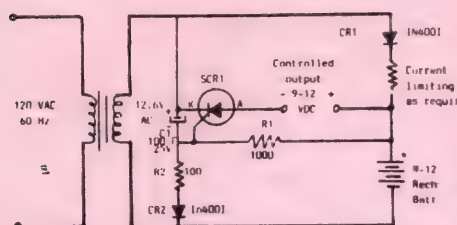
Of course you know that the Parrots & Macaws are great noise generators and could drive a Russian Woodpecker back to his nest without ever shifting to high power.

See you next month.

73 Mike KA9LQM



The battery is charged through CR1 and an appropriate current limiting resistor. Should the AC power fail, C1 discharges completely and then starts to charge in the opposite direction, power being supplied by the battery. When the voltage on C1 is sufficient to trigger SCR1, SCR1 turns on and energizes the controlled output device from the battery. Reset is automatic when AC is restored because the SCR is reversed biased when CR1 conducts to charge the battery. Some applications: power failure alarm, emergency lighting, memory protection. Reprinted from the IRA's BEACON



6501 Oak Hill Road -- Evansville, IN 47711  
Phone 867-2023





# SPARKS

**Tri-State Amateur Radio Society**  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA



September 1984 Volume 23 No. 9

## OFFICERS:

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
V.P.: Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Sec.: Elvin Reed WB9VSQ  
Treas: Joyce Spencer KA9CPE

## DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers KA9EIV  
Charlie Sartore N9DYE  
Roy Cloukey KA9IWP  
Bill Spencer WD9HUK  
Harold Muensterman N9DEO  
Charlie Finke WB9NQD

## EDITOR:

Mike Anderson KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and \*  
\* Heidelbach Avenues at the RED CROSS building. \*  
\* Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM \*  
\* The officers and directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday \*  
\* at 7:00 PM at the RED CROSS building. \*  
\* \*  
\* The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM local \*  
\* time on the W 9 O G repeater. 147.75-15 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

044 tars  
W9AIN  
IL

*If you have questions about SPARKS or an article for it please contact the editor.*

# PLAN AHEAD

## NOV. ELECTIONS DEC. XMAS PARTY

ARRL Bulletin NR 58  
Relayed de KB9NR

NEW HF PHONE SUBBANDS  
Effective 0001 UTC  
September 1, 1984

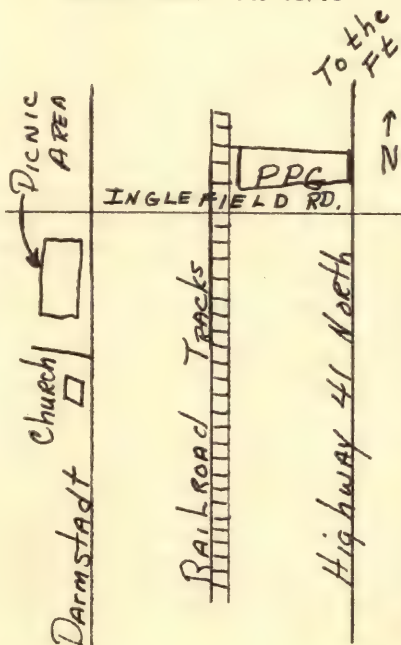
3750 to 3775 Extra Class  
3775 to 3850 Adv. & Extra  
3850 to 4000 Gen, Adv, Ex

21200 to 21225 Extra  
21225 to 21300 Adv. & Extra  
21300 to 21450 Gen, Adv, Ex

28300 to 29700 Gen, Adv, Ex

With regards to the 40 meter band, FCC concurs with ARRL that phone band expansion here would be detrimental to CW Operations. However, the commission will allow phone operation on 7075 to 7100 in Hawaii and other areas near Region 3, & Alaska.

Picnic Talk-In 147.15/75



## TARS ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATION CONFERENCE

The Picnic will be Saturday September 15th. at the Salem United Church of Christ in Darmstadt. The map is for all of you who get lost when leaving the city limits. How anyone able to drive in Evansville with all of the road closings on First Avenue, Division Street, Super Computer Stoplight System, Chuckholes which should be banished by all members of the Secret Order of the Bent Wing, can get lost anywhere is beyond me.

Upcoming Events will be November Elections and more FOOD & FUN at the Christmas Party in December. INCERT may need metal detectors again for the protection of little Witches & Goblins if you have one keep in touch with the Wednesday Night Net for Halloween needs.

See you at the Picnic  
73 Mike KA9LQM





The only thing bad about this job besides the pay is having to write an article each month; and next in line is when Mike "KA9LQM" calls and asks me where is it?

This is the quietest month we have had this year so there isn't much to write about.

Thanks to Blanche "KA9EIV" who has spent a lot of time calling various members to check to see if they are still ARRL members. We now have all of the papers filled out again to send of to become a Special Service Club maybe it will happen this time.

As I said earlier this has been a quiet month I sure hope Mike has something to fill in Sparks this month.

Don't forget the emergency coordination conference to be held sept 15th. at Jerry's church picnic grounds just North of Darmstadt. Dinner will be served at 5:00 PM catered by Country School all you need to bring is a chair and some BIG BULL STORY.

73 Jim KA9KRE

#### MOTORCYCLE NET

Relayed de WA9OC0

Those who are interested in finding out more about the Motorcycle Net, which was started in November 1982, can do so by sending an SASE to Gary McDuffie, AGØN, Route 1 Box 464, Bayard NE 69334.

The net meets on Thursdays, at Ø3ØØZ, on 3.967. All bikers are welcomed -- Street, Road and Dirt Riders.

#### SECRETARY REPORT

TARS Meeting 8/9/84 Red Cross Building

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Jim KA9KRE & Mike KA9LQM are suppose to hook up the auto patch at the Red Cross on 8/11/84 it should be solid copy then.

2. New electric line to be installed at the repeater site soon.

3. Mort, W9GJ explained the V.E. Program which will be in effect soon.

4. Hal WB9FNN reported drums on the ohio was successful but rained.

5. Picnic will be held sunday Sept. 15, 1984 Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm.

PROGRAM: Slide Show on Astronomy

WB9VSQ Elvin

## FAR ENOUGH?

Relayed by K9PKG FAR ENOUGH? by Ted Sheppers WB4LFF

The FCC, about to consider the granting of a license to a New Orleans lawyer's client, asked for titles to the land on which the proposed antenna was to be erected. These arrived for as far back as 1803. The FCC wrote asking "Who owned the land before that?" The lawyer replied:

"Gentlemen:

Your letter regarding titles in Case # 1819156 has been received. I note you wish titles to extend further than I have presented them. I was unaware that any educated man in the world failed to know that Louisiana was purchased from France by the United States in 1803."

"The title to the land was acquired by France by right of conquest from Spain. The land came into the possession of Spain by right of discovery made in 1492 by an Italian sailor named Christopher Columbus, who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by the then reigning monarch, Queen Isabella of Spain. The good Queen being a pious woman and careful about titles took the precaution of securing the blessings of the Pope of Rome upon the voyage before she sold her jewels to help Columbus."

"Now the Pope as you know, is the Vicar of Christ, Who is the Son of God, and God, it is commonly accepted, made the world. Therefore, I believe it is safe to presume that He also made that part of the United States called Louisiana, and I hope you are satisfied."



**NAMES in the NEWS**

de The Shadow Author wishes to remain anonymous

TARS members attending Linda's Picnic were W9KXP and family, K09JB and family, W9ANG and Janice and N9DOR.

Congratulations to KA9PWH, John Reising on his General Ticket and to Kevin Dick, KA9EMM on his Technician.

Recent hospital patients were KA9AFR, Jill, and W9NBV, Mac.

Roy, KA9IWP, sends beautiful CW--his QSL shows him working a keyboard.

KB9NR, Lloyd, and XYL Geneva have returned from another vacation this one to Iowa. It must not be Geneva who does all the talking in that family or why did Lloyd lose his voice recently?

WB9MRX, Fr. Paul, has been at St. Meinrad for about 10 days and is now back at Louisville, KY in nurses training.

A new member of the rocking chair club is Chuck, K9PAR.

Doesn't KA9KRE know the shortest distance between holes on the Golf Course is not a Zig-Zag pattern?

WD9HUK, Bill and KA9CPE, Joyce and family spent a week at Johnson City, TN. Hal, WB9FNN, and Carol are off on another vacation to Colorado and a side trip to the Mountains in Wyoming. N9DOR, Vance has made another trip to New Orleans and the World's Fair. WB9VSQ, Elvin, is spending a week in Florida sail-boating in a Hobie-Cat.

With Labor Day Ken WA9HGA won't have to quit the Ponies until the next day. Was that W9AJR, Dave in the winners circle one recent Tuesday afternoon?

W9BC, Bev had his daughter and grandchildren for a week's visit before taking them back home to Lexington, KY.

Escorting the flat-boats down the Ohio, N9CUK, Ken, thought he had struck a submarine but it was only a little 'ole' log about 2 1/2 feet in diameter.

KA9AFR, Jill, spent 3 weeks in Germany this summer and is now at Indiana University. Douglas, son of WB9VSQ is back at Purdue. Kevin, KA9EMM is at Purdue. Kevin is the son of WA9QDZ and KA9DZW.

Another son of WB9VSQ, Darren, who graduated from Purdue 3 years ago with a degree in aeronautical engineering, now at the NASA center in Huntsville, AL has been working with the solar array used on the Aug. 29th. flight.

W9KXP, Mike, and Penny are making real progress on their house. They are converting the garage into two bedrooms, removing an inside wall to make a large living-family room and putting insulation and vinyl siding on the outside.

WB9NQD, Charlie, is also nursing mashed thumbs from his recent construction efforts.

Thanks for the rain of August 18th go to K09JB, John, who was camping with his family at Lincoln Park.

Not everyone who fishes in a pay lake catches fish, ask K8GIK.

K9HVI, Little Ed, and Charlotte have three sons in college-- Rodney, N900X, at Washington University in St. Louis, Marty, KA9HTT, at Purdue and Kenny at Indiana University. Ed Jr., KA0GQU, works for Texas Instruments in Houston, Robert, a graduate of Purdue is with Arthur Anderson in Cincinnati and John attends Memorial High School.

If you haven't guessed who the Shadow is THANKS BLANCHE



# LONGWAVE FUN

THE 1750 METER BAND

by Brice Anderson, W9PNE

This little known band is gaining in popularity after recent articles in "Ham Radio" & "Popular Communications". A large number of experimenters, especially in the East, have built equipment and are communicating with each other. A range of 100 miles is possible, and some have had QSO's of over 200 miles. These people are known as LOWFERS. The band covers the frequency range of 160 to 190 KHz.

No license is required for operation on this band, but antenna height and power limits must be observed. The power input to the final stage of the transmitter must not exceed one watt. The antenna height is limited to 50 feet. Only vertical antennas will radiate a signal out of your yard. The 50 foot height can be interpreted to include the length of top loading wires. The most successful transmitting antennas have been 40 feet verticals with a set of 10 foot long top-loading wires, or 45 foot verticals with a set of 5 foot long top-loading wires. A good ground system with several 50 foot long radials helps greatly.

The band is shared with commercial interests, so there are always signals on the band. A selective receiver and choice of operating frequency makes communication possible. Light dimmers cause terrible interference. I had to replace mine with regular switches in order to hear any signals.

Palomar engineers offer a complete transmitter for this band and an excellent converter. However, most LOWFERS build their own equipment. I found that "The Low & Medium Frequency Radio Scrap Book", by Ken Cornell is excellent. It is full of circuits, antenna information, coil winding information, etc. I have the third edition. He has now published the fourth edition. It is available for \$10.00 from Ken Cornell, 225 Baltimore Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742.

I joined the "Longwave Club of America", which publishes a monthly magazine called "Lowdown". Subscription is \$10.00 per year. The Address is Longwave Club of America, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, PA 19057.

I also subscribe to the "Lowfer Letters", published by Vincent J. Pinto, 2 Farview Terrace, Suffern, NY 10901. He will send the "Lowfer Letters" to anyone who sends him a bunch of business sized S.A.S.E.'s. Although he does not charge anything for the letters, the cost is out of his own pocket, and he appreciates a small donation.

The nearest Lowfer to me with a transmitting beacon is 350 miles away. There is very little activity in Illinois & Indiana except for listeners. CW operation is the rule, and a speed of 6 WPM is used. For this reason, most Lowfers are Hams. However, Ham Calls Can Not Be Used. Most use their initials.

I am building a crystal controlled transmitter and converter. I will be putting up an antenna whenever the weather permits. My identification will be BA.

I would like to see some local activity and I can furnish more information to anyone interested.

Reprinted from Mt. Carmel, Illinois R.A.D.I.O.

## Feedback

de KA9LMO

Once again YL's and XYL's I warn you of dasterdly things. Hamfests are not the only dangers of Ham Radio, bodily harm can result. Listen to my tale and beware.

It started innocently enough with Mike KA9LQM going out to the repeater site to help out. When I got home from work there he was with his left elbow pointing to the ceiling rubbing his shoulder. I asked if he had hurt himself and trying to avoid a wifely I Told You So he denied everything.

Throughout the evening he stayed in the same strange position. I could only assume that he had joined the West Side Nut Club and was practicing a secret salute. Do they have a secret Order of the Bent Wing?!

After tossing and turning half the night and causing hurricane warnings for our waterbed he admitted he had hurt his arm at the site earlier.

The next days were a blur of TLC time. You gals know what I mean, hopping to his every request, saying "Oh, poor baby" every time he groaned.

Unfortunately a broken something heals much faster than a pulled something. So being the wonderful wife I am I also took over his outside chores and mowed the lawn. Being so exhausted from TLC I wasn't being careful and crushed 4 fingers in the garage door.

So Ladies be careful and don't let your Ham Husband join the Royal Order of the Bent Wing. It can only mean crushed fingers and TLC Overdose.

73's Carolyn





## SPARKS

Tri-State Amateur Radio Society  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA



October 1984



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from:

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Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

044 tars  
W9AIN  
IL

If you have questions al

# ARRL

## NOV. ELECTIONS DEC. XMAS PARTY

In a recent survey of T.A.R.S. membership to determine the number of ARRL members, I head this comment several times "\$25.00 is too much for a magazine half-full of ads".

What we are over-looking is the fact that only one-half of the \$25.00 is for QST while the other half is for ARRL membership, however, they can not be separated.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is a noncommercial association of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communications and experimentation, for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative matters, and for the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

ARRL is a government liaison between the Amateur Radio Service and the FCC -- helping in such areas as the recently expanded phone band privileges.

They maintain a QSL Bureau, sponsor DXCC, WAS, Code Proficiency, etc. Awards.

They have Training Aids in the form of Films, Slides, Tape Recordings, Video Cassettes available for class instructors and meeting programs.

W1AW, the ARRL station, transmits slow and fast code practice, CW, Teleprinter and Voice bulletins daily.

They sponsor National Traffic System (NTS) and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). ARRL has available to it's members low cost equipment insurance coverage.

Publications, such as 'Operating an Amateur Radio Station, Public Service Communications Manual, Net Directory, etc.' can be obtained at no cost.

The ARRL is a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator and most recently the ARRL and FCC's Field Operations Bureau has organized the Amateur auxiliary.

You can join ARRL or renew your membership through T.A.R.S. Contact: Joyce Spencer, KA9CPE, Treasurer

1550 South Burkhardt Road  
Evansville, IN 47715

T.A.R.S. is permitted to keep \$2.00 of the dues for our treasury. Join or Renew Now!

KA9EIV



# Chatter

KRE's KORNER

Once again winter is almost upon us. Now is the time to check those towers, down guys, and antenna's before it gets too cold. It always seems to me that for each foot I climb the temp always drops about 1 degree so if its 30 degrees at ground level that makes it about 20 below at 50 feet. Anyway the club owns a gin pole and a safety belt so if you need them give me a call

At the last board meeting we discussed ways to increase attendance at the regular meetings and decided to put a survey form in SPARKS so everybody can tell us what kind of program or meeting you would like to have. If we had a transmitter hunt would enough people be interested to make it worthwhile? WHAT EVER! If you will fill it out and send it in we will see what we can do.

Also at the meeting Blanche KA9EIV gave me a radio-gram she had received 22 minutes earlier from Bruce Woodward W9UMH telling me that he had just approved our application for Special Service Club status and was sending it on to the director for final approval. Since then we have been notified that we are now a Special Service Club. We have been doing the things required for years so all we have to do is keep on doing them. The meeting October 11th will start as usual at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross Building and after a short business meeting we will go to the North end of the airport to the Air Traffic Controller Tower for a guided tour through the control room. It should be interesting.

## Feedback de KA9LMO

The next time you see KA9LQM be very nice to him he's had a rough month. We all have our weaknesses and his happens to be electronic do dads. I realize that most people name their pets but Mike has named his radio Mr. Azden. Mr. A as he is affectionately termed became sick and had to reside for awhile at N9APA's hospital.

He had a substitute but it just wasn't Mr. A. The controls were a bit strange and the rapport just wasn't there. He'd reach for the mike in the car and throw it down in disgust while mumbling "Mr. A where are you"? He would arrive home with a nervous tick and trembling hands. A ragchewer is a sad sight when he's forced to be silent.

But as the days went by he began to adjust and he threw himself into his second most favorite hobby, video taping. He was about to realize a Trekkie's dream of a lifetime, having all of the Star Trek episodes on tape. He only had one episode left to acquire and it was to be broadcast 3 days hence. All the equipment was prepared, the tape readied and the duty roster posted.

Then the night before the big event we came home to a tragedy --- NO CABLE TV --- ! The fabric of his mind snapped. He called the company and no one was home; the only human was a young lady at the answering service. Her only answer to all questions was "We can schedule a serviceman between 8:00 AM & 5:00 PM Monday to Friday WOULD A WEEK FROM TUESDAY BE OK?"

Then truly desperate he dove behind the shelving where all the video equipment is and began to fight his way through the cabled jungle with a phillips screwdriver. He was sure he could unhook it and wire some sort of an antenna to pick up the signal.

It was all too sad and I had to leave, when you see the outcome of obsession it's difficult to watch. Then horrible squaking from the parrot hurried my feet back to the basement. It was a terrible thing I saw, Mike chasing the bird with coax and a plug. Where he planned to attach it to the poor creature I shudder to guess. I then directed him to the discount store in search of a proper antenna.

Fear not though, KA9LQM triumphed. He got his Star Trek episode and Mr. A came home the next day. The wild look left his eyes after a couple of days and with the help of birdie Valium the parrot was able to look at coax again. I'm just glad the month is over, isn't Obsession a sad tale?

73 Carolyn KA9LMO

EDITORS NOTE I wasn't going after the parrot with the coax I was getting ready to hook-up the snake as a whip antenna. It should work better than "Rabbit Ears".

## ARES ACTIVITY REPORT

August 8, 1984

Drums on the Ohio -- Drum & Bugle Corp Competition  
Reitz Bowl -- Reitz High School football field  
Using repeater 147.75/15 and Simplex 146.52

Amateurs taking part:

WB9FNN (Net Control), WA9QDZ, KA9OZW, N4XI, N9DEQ, KA9LQM, KA9LMO, KA9KRE, WA9IVE, K9STX, W9VZX, and KK9L



## BOARD MEETING -- August 16, 1984

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Pres., KA9KRE  
Others attending were KA9CPE, WD9HUK, N9DEO, KA9IWP, and  
KA9EIV.

Discussed Special Service Club forms given to KA9EIV to  
complete.

Auto Patch in operation at Red Cross Building. New  
service line at Orchard road site of 75/15 on ground  
waiting to be put up and tied in both ends. How about  
HELP? Any Volunteers WINTER IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING.

Club License, W9OG, renewed for 10 years under new  
trustee, W9FHA, John Small.

VE Program -- Packet being filled in and returned to ARRL

McCutchan Award to be continued by TARS if not carried on  
by the estate of late Ellis Carson,

4-H Center reservation for 1985 Hamfest to be made by  
KA9EIV.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 P.M.

KA9EIV

## CONTESTING

## OCTOBER

6-7	ARRL QSO Party, CW
6-7	Worldwide SSTV Contest
6-7	VK/ZL/Oceania Contest
10	W1AW Qualifying Run, 10-40
13-14	ARRL QSO Party, Phone
13-14	Rio CW DX Party
13-14	Columbus Day DX Contest
13-15	Oregon QSO Party
13-15	Pennsylvania QSO Party
17-18	YLRL anniversary CW Party
20-21	Pennsylvania QSO Party
20-21	Simulated Emergency Test
20-21	Worked all Y2 Contest
20-21	Jamboree on the Air
21	RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest
21	World-wide DX Sprint
27-28	CQ WW DX Contest, Phone
28	W1AW Qualifying Run
31-1	YLRL anniversary Party

## NOVEMBER

3	DARC Corona 10 Meter RTTY Contest # 4
3-4	ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
9-10	DARC European RTTY Contest
17-18	ARRL Sweepstakes, Phone
24-25	CQ WW DX Contest, Phone

Reprinted de the Beacon, Indianapolis Repeater Association



KA9LQM

TARS is now an ARRL Special Service Club. This is not a hollow title given to any club wanting it. It has been earned by what we as a club have done in the past; but more important are the things we are planning to do in the FUTURE! The SSC status has to be earned each year. Out of 55 ARRL affiliated clubs in Indiana TARS is only the ninth to qualify for SSC status. When you are asked to help with one of our projects in the future SAY YES!

If you are not a member of ARRL consider the benefits.

Since being Editor of Sparks is such a BEAR of a job I have hired an assistant editor. He has agreed to work for wages that seem very reasonable to me. I don't know how to get Joyce to pay his food bill though; guess she might believe another Emergency Communications Conference.

One of the major duties of the Assistant Editor is seeing that everyone gets their articles in by the deadline. He will try to encourage all TARS members to submit articles for Sparks. When "B.B." asks you for help give it to him. His sense of humor is quite shallow. Please DO NOT make fun of his facial hair problems. Also his social habits are not the best & pity the person who calls him an "ASS. EDITOR" The true meaning of the word DEADLINE may be found by those of you who are late. Don't take chances with your skin the life you save may be your own! He loves popcorn and as long as you don't run out he is a delightful addition to any gathering; Carolyn did you order another 100 pound bag of popcorn?





## SILENT KEYS

Wayne W. Hassee, KA9PUG, 64, of 856 Washington Avenue died at 1:00 AM Sunday September 23. Wayne attended the class taught by AK9G in the spring of 1983. He was a member of T.A.R.S. and ARRL. A memorial contribution in his name was made to the Hadi Shrine Children's Fund by T.A.R.S.

The members of T.A.R.S. extend their sympathy to WA9QDZ, Tom, on the death of his father, Albert Dick of Jasper, Indiana. A memorial contribution was made to the Mater Dei Building fund in his name by T.A.R.S.

Thank you cards have been received from the First Christian Church building fund, Carmi, IL in memory of Marvin Cleveland and the First Presbyterian Church special fund, Princeton, IN in memory of John Yochum, W9URQ.

## NOVICE CLASS

A new Novice Class will started Tuesday, October 16th. The class will be held at the HAM SHACK located at the corner of Fulton Avenue & Franklin Street.

Cost includes all materials needed and are as follows:

\$25.00 Single Person

\$15.00 Married Person

\$10.00 Spouse

For more information call Bob Bengert or see Dan at the HAM SHACK. Looks like you single guys and gals should get married so you can save a few bucks.

## NAMES in the NEWS

### READING THE MAIL de KA9EIV

K9PKG, George, and XYL celebrated their 49th. wedding anniversary at the T.A.R.S. picnic. George demonstrated one of the steam engines he has built.

Bob, AK9G, and Mike, KA9GDW, had a "WILD" horseshoe game. In fact, some of the shoes had the spectators scurrying to safety.

Among Those attending the S.A.R.A. Hamfest were K9JSK, W9RBV, WA9HGA, KA9EIV and her sister Mary, and KB9NR and Geneva. K9GKR won the main prize and chose the Icom 730 mobile rig. The goat milk ice cream was the richest, smoothest and creamiest we had ever eaten. N9EGI, Tom and XYL were there too.

Guess who will be mowing the lawn the rest of the season at the W9KVE residence after the way he talked to Janette at the picnic?

KA4IXQ, Tom was so engrossed with his computer that he was late in getting his family to the picnic.

John, W9FHA, and Pam spent a week of vacation at Doe-Run-Inn, Berea, Ky, Shakertown, and Pennyrile Lodge. WA9PLN, Jim, and XYL will vacation the first of October in the Smokies.

Jim, KA9KRE, in reply to last month's comment about his Zig-Zag golf drives, said "I paid for the whole course and I intend to use it".

W9MOI, Bernie, and XYL missed the picnic as they were vacationing out west and (listen to this) K8GIK had to help with a yard sale.

Max, K4HAX, made contact with the balloonist Joe W. Kittinger while he was over the Atlantic. Max put through a call for Joe to the back-up team at Bedford, Mass. How is that for rare DX and a helping hand?

After three months studying and two days "on the river" testing, N9CUK, Ken has achieved crew level Coast Guard Auxiliary accreditation. Ken also received his ARRL/VE accreditation the same week.

WA9OCO, George, passed around snapshots recently showing a wheelbarrow FULL of watermelons. As there were only two melons in it, they must have been a big as they looked or the wheelbarrow was a toy.

Lucky Jim, KA9KRE, won the main prize of a new golf bag at the banquet September 24th.

### JIM'S QUESTIONNAIRE

What would you like to see at club meetings for programs?

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-----

-----

What other type of activities?

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Complete and Mail to Jim's Questionnaire  
Tri State Amateur Radio Club  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732





# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

11-84



### OFFICERS:

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
V.P.: Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Sec.: Elvin Reed WB9VSQ  
Treas: Joyce Spencer KA9CPE

### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers KA9EIV  
Charlie Sartore N9DYE  
Roy Cloukey KA9IWP  
Bill Spencer WD9HUK  
Harold Muensterman N9DEO  
Charlie Finke WB9NQD

### EDITOR:

Mike Anderson KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and  
\* Heidelberg Avenues at the RED CROSS building.  
\* Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM  
\* The officers and directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday  
\* at 7:00 PM at the RED CROSS building.  
\*  
\* The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM local  
\* time on the W 9 O G repeater. 147.75 - 15  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

044 tars  
W9AIN

IL

If you have question

# ARRL

## NOV. ELECTIONS

## DEC. XMAS PARTY

I received the following letter to the Editor this month commenting on Blanche's (KA9EIV) article on ARRL and thought I would share it with everyone.

"To me, belonging to ARRL is something that I would do whether or not they published QST. To me, the reason to support ARRL is to support their efforts in keeping the hobby alive and well! In 1979 hams got three new bands from the WARC conference in Geneva. It happened because ARRL and their equivalents around the world convinced their governments that Amateur Radio Service needs those added bands. Knowing how valuable radio spectrum is, you can see this was no small achievement!"

"No, ARRL membership is not merely getting QST each month. ARRL membership is support for the one national organization which continues to fight for our hobby. The broadcasters have their national lobby group, the electronic manufacturers have their lobby groups and we have ours (even though ARRL doesn't like to be called a lobby)! If you have thousands of dollars invested in this hobby, is \$25 a year really too much to spend to preserve that investment?"

That's it Mike. I hope you can get that into one of your upcoming issues. Regards,

Ron Koczor, K9TUS  
Ind. Affiliated Club Coordinator  
2512 Glenwood Avenue  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

The Annual Christmas party will be held on December 14, 1984 at the Kingmens Club just off of Highway 57, Same place as the last two years. If you need directions a map will be in the December Sparks.

The cost will be \$5.00 per person for both TARS members and guests; however ONLY TARS MEMBERS are eligible to win the door prizes. We will have a minimum of \$350.00 in door prizes this year.

The party will be catered by Mrs. D's and the exact menu will be in next month Sparks.

Reservations for this party have to be received no later than December 6, 1984. Send check payable to TARS to:

Joyce Spencer, KA9CPE  
1550 South Burkhardt Rd.  
Evansville, IN 47715

A reservation form is on page two.



# Chatter



KA9LQM

Here it is November again only 61 more shopping days before Christmas. But more important November meeting is Election Night. The nominating committee has been having meetings and calling members to come up with a slate of officers and directors. They have put in many hours on the phone in the last three weeks and after many turn downs have come up with a full slate of candidate; so come to the meeting and vote for your choice.

Election isn't the only thing going on at the meeting. It is also homebrew night so bring out some of the things that you have build and show them around. You might win something; either for neatness or ugly we haven't decided yet. Also Mr. Don Jackson from INCERT will be the speaker. It is getting close to winter and traditionally INCERT is more active then than anyother time; so we need to hear from him about ways we can help. If you have any questions about INCERT now is the time to get the answer.

Following a suggestion from John (N4XI) we had a tour through the F.A.A. Control tower at Dress Regional Airport. We left the American Red Cross Building after a short business meeting and drove to the tower where we split up into two groups for the tour. One group didn't get to see everything the other one did because of a minor emergency. A plane had to fly by two times to make sure his landing gear was down. Anyway it was a very informative tour and everyone enjoyed it -- Thanks again to John Bennet for the idea. If anyone else has any ideas for programs let us know about it.

We have finished another SET (Simulated Emergency Test) and I haven't heard the results yet but I did hear Blanche (KA9EIV) take traffic on 3910 Indiana Traffic Net going to the Indiana State Police Post and she had the answer back to Indianapolis in four minutes which should be some kind of a record. I heard a lot of interesting things on 3910 so I cut an antenna this week for 80 meters. If the weather holds I will check into the Net Monday Evening (Hi Hi).

See you at the meeting November 8th. ARC Building

73 Jim KA9KRE

## TARS CHRISTMAS PARTY RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 6, 1984

I need reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ people at \$5.00 each.

Send reservations to: Joyce Spencer, KA9CPE  
1550 South Burkhardt Road  
Evansville, Indiana 47715

Enclosed find check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ONLY TARS MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR DOOR PRIZES

Well by the time you read this the Presidential Elections will be over. No more QRM from all the political commercials; guess the networks will survive without the political commercials.

None of the slate running for any of the TARS offices had television or radio commercials. Guess we will have to fight for our PAC (Political Action Committee) Contributions. They could be used for new radio equipment to broadcast our campaign messages into the vast expanse of space. Lets see to get around the FCC Rules against broadcasting, we could have one of our friends call us and ask our opinion on the subject of Antenna Taxes.

See how lucky you are that TARS offices have such a low salary per year or you just might hear a long winded commercial message from one of the candidates.

Come to the November meeting and exercise your right to vote for your favorite officer.

Nominations will be taken from the floor prior to the election of officers so if you know of anyone who would make a good officer or director in TARS come to the meeting and nominate them. The person nominated must be there to accept or you must have a letter from them stating they will serve the office if elected.

See you all at the Nov. 8th. meeting. We will also have Homebrew Night and Don Jackson from INCERT.

PS: For the election I will keep BBB (alies Big Brown Bear) in his cage he might try to eat the Elephant or Donkey.

73 Mike KA9LQM



## HAM PLATES

### AMATEUR RADIO PLATES

If you plan to renew or get Amateur Radio License Plates this year the procedure has been changed again.

Do not pass go, get a get out of jail card free, or even take a ride on the Reading Railroad. Just drive to the local license branch where you want to pick up your Ham Plates. If this is the first time you have ordered your plates take a copy of your Amateur License with you. To renew a previously issued plate all you need is last years registration.

Ask the clerk to reserve your Ham Plate. They will immediately order the plate on their computer terminal and give you a receipt for the plate order. We get a great deal on Amateur Plates as they are only \$2.00 more than regular plates. Not bad when regular personalized plates go for about 50 Bucks. Order your plates as soon as possible; but the cut-off date is the end of November.

## SILENT

### KEYS

Scott H. Chase, W9OP, 67, died Friday November 2 at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital in Ft. Campbell, Ky. Chase an Air Force veteran of World War II was a former radio broadcast engineer for stations in Owensboro and Henderson KY and had been a member of TARS for a number of years.

TARS would like to extend sympathies to the family of Ed Jordan, K9RZN of Enfield, IL who died recently. Many of us knew Ed through WACARC and the Wednesday night net.

## Feedback de KASLMO

I think it is time we elected a ragchewer for President. No not of TARS, think bigger, the United States is what I'm talking about. Imagine all the possibilities!

All recent Presidents seem to have had a wonderful gift of gab and we all know those guys have no talent at all compared to a ragchewer. The President must spend long hours in important global negotiations. No nationality could outdo a dedicated ragchewer. I can see it now, everyone wilted around the table, empty pots of coffee, over brimming ashtrays and the ragchewer continues on and on.

Communications would be a little different, maybe better. We wouldn't have a hot line anymore we'd have the HHT (Hot Handi-Talkie). The Oval Office would become the Oval Shack and antennas would sprout at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. If the next door neighbors had the effrontery to complain about TVI the Secret Service could pay them a little call, ah, wouldn't that be heaven!

We taxpayers could also save a lot of money. Air Force One and Camp David could be retired because we all know a dedicated ragchewer doesn't get too far from his Shack. They rarely stop to eat so all those expensive state dinners could be cancelled. All speeches could be in CW, since ragchewers enjoy that mode so much (Hi Hi), the political rhetoric would be limited to 3 minutes.

The First XYL's role could be expanded. That poor woman has been alone for so many years that she would make a wonderful roving goodwill ambassador. She would actually have someone to talk to other than her plants. She certainly wouldn't be resentful of the intrusion of the office on her personal time with her husband since she hasn't had any since the first ARRL manual entered her home.

I can see nothing but wonderful things with a Ham as President. If you know someone with a Worked All States award propose the idea, who knows, you could end up in the cabinet - Secretary of QSO's. Go For It!!!!

### INCERT (Indiana Civil Emergency Response Teams)

Don Jackson, Area IV INCERT Coordinator, Indiana State Police Evansville Post, will be the speaker at TARS November meeting on Thursday November 8th., 7:30 PM at the Red Cross Building -- Corner of Diamond and Heidelberg Avenues.

Don will explain operations of INCERT and the Amateur Radio Operators participation in it. An UP-TO-DATE Amateur Radio station at the Evansville State Police Post is in the planning stage with no cost what-so-ever to the TARS members or INCERT members.

The recent Simulated Emergency Test showed the need for a 75 meter HF rig at the post.

We, in the Southwestern section of the State, have been fortunate in not having had a real emergency for some time. Being in an area susceptible to tornadoes, in close proximity to the New Madrid Fault, and not counting unforeseen emergencies, we must be better organized to handle such events should they occur.



# NAMES in the NEWS

READING THE MAIL de Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV

N9DOR, Vance, and XYL have returned from a trip to the Eastern States. They visited their grand-daughter at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. Also toured Vermont and the Amish area of Pennsylvania.

Lefty, W9KVE, <sup>COVERT</sup> is celebrating his Number 77 and he and Janette are also celebrating their 47th. wedding anniversary.

It's Number 77 also this October for K9QLB, Kearnie. <sup>SMITH</sup> 1907 was a good year.

How will we know when it's 3:10 PM now that W9NJE, Jim, has retired?

Woody, <sup>PEMBERTON</sup> KA40FE, and XYL are here from Ft. Meyers, FL. They will be at their mobile home near Lynnvile until after Thanksgiving.

It's been 7 years this October since W9ANG, Ken took his new bride on a honeymoon to the Bedford, Indiana Hamfest. <sup>PARR</sup>

How is this for a full house? All 4 club officers, all 6 board members, Editor and the county EC showed up for the October board meeting.

K9STV, Shirley, broke her arm so K9STX has dish-pan hands.

WA9OCO, George, looks mighty handsome with the beard he said he had to grow because he broke his razor.

Hal, <sup>WILSON</sup> WB9FNN, and Carol escaped the rainy weather one recent weekend by driving to Shakertown, Ky. Maybe Hal was remembering the incident in Colorado when the Jeep he was driving stalled in a creek with about 18 inches of water.

K9JSK, Paul, and Mary had recent house guests from Colorado & Oregon. <sup>WURTZ</sup>

Another "BIG ONE" got away. The fish Paul, K8GIK, hooked in the Ohio recently left him with nothing but the "TALE" and a sore wrist from trying to get it to shore.

Let us all welcome Jeff Merrow to the world of Amateur Radio. Jeff is a 16 year old North High student who is working toward his Ham license on his own.

Lloyd, KB9NR, is enjoying his Yaesu FT 757 GX, and Geneva, his XYL is enjoying the new New Yorker.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to this column in later issues, please give me a call.

KA9EIV

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

This years nominating committee consisting of Mort Silverman (W9GJ), John Small (W9FHA), and Paul Wirtz (K9JSK) worked many hours and have come up with the following slate for the 1984 TARS Election of Officers & Directors:

President: Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE

Directors: Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Morris Johnson, K9PAR  
John Lynn, WA9IVE  
Ken Marlin, N9CUK  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
Ralph Waldo, K9STX

Vice President: Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO

Secretary: Elvin Reed, WB9V6Q

Treasurer: Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

NOMINATIONS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN FROM THE FLOOR PRIOR TO THE ELECTION; however please be sure the person you nominate for any position is willing to serve in that post should they be elected.





## SPARKS

### Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

December 1984



#### OFFICERS:

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
V.P.: Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Sec.: Elvin Reed WB9VSQ  
Treas: Joyce Spencer KA9CPE

#### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers KA9EIV  
Charlie Sartore N9DYE  
Roy Cloukey KA9IWP  
Bill Spencer WD9HUK  
Harold Muensterman N9DEO  
Charlie Finke WB9NQD

#### EDITOR:

Mike Anderson KA9LQM  
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\* time on the W 9 0 G repeater. 147.75 - 15  
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from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

If you have questions about:

Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

044

tars  
W9AIN

IL

## ELECTIONS

Well this years election is over and we have a new group of officers and directors for 1985. When you are asked to help on any of the projects in the new year, say yes, and help your club grow.

#### Officers Elect are:

President: Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE  
Vice President: Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Secretary: Elvin Reed, WB9VSQ  
Treasurer: Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

#### Directors Elect are:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ Ralph Waldo, K9STX (1 year term)

#### Editors Notebook de KA9LQM

Here are a few things that every well equipped Ham Shack needs. (think I can con Carolyn into this).

1. Heath "HERO 1" Robot - Can it do windows and keep the mess on my desk cleaned up to please "She who must be obeyed" as Horrace Rumpole would say.
2. New item on the market for those who are having SWR problems. "Antenna Wax" will eliminate SWR; it will just slide off the antenna elements.
4. For those who like the "Easy Route" just get one of the new guides to the new pool of FCC Questions. You will only have 500 questions to memorize. Catch 22 is they only give you the questions you have to research the answers.

continued on page 2

## The Evansville Courier

Wednesday, September 5, 1984

### Hams have been on the job

To the Editor of The Courier:

Having read the coverage by your L.J. Campbell on the proposed siren system for Vanderburgh County, I wonder again why your writers seem to overlook checking the local scene when writing a story.

Basically, she did a good job of discussing various warning systems. But if she had done any local research she would have found that the Tri-State area has had an operational weather spotter network (functioning since 1973. The amateur radio operators (hams) of the area work with the Evansville Weather Service to provide on-site reporting of weather conditions over the total Tri-State, covering not only the immediate Evansville area but also into all three states as far as Vincennes, Ind., Madisonville, Ky., Harrisburg, Ill., and beyond.

Well over 100 hams are involved every time severe weather is reported anywhere within the area, to report local conditions to the weather bureau and to check out unconfirmed reports which reach the bureau. To facilitate this, the local amateurs have installed amateur radio equipment at the weather bureau and provide a licensed operator's service at the weather bureau office to collect and screen incoming reports and feed it to weather bureau personnel, so that it can do the most good. They also serve to help extend emergency warnings into the rural areas so that local law enforcement officers are aware of potentially dangerous weather.

I believe that if you would do a careful job of checking you would find that Evansville was probably the first city in Indiana to provide such a service. In addition, local hams provide emergency communications assistance to the Red Cross and the Indiana State Police INCERT program.

HAL WILSON  
WB9FNN  
Evansville



# Chatter

## KRE's KORNER

Once again the Amateur Radio Operators have come through for the Tri-State Area. I am going to keep this short so Mike can print the letter of commendation that we received from Norm Carroll. (Editors Note: That's the BEST EXCUSE I'VE HEARD YET)

The Christmas Party will be at the Kingsmen's Club on Hwy. 57 and Baseline Road. The same place we have had for the last two years. This year every CLUB MEMBER that attends is going to win a door prize. The dinner will be on the same order as last year. The only Difference is since the new D.W.I. law went into effect the person serving the booze can be held responsible so its Bring Your Own Bottle this year. Please get your reservations to Joyce Spencer by December 6th. so we will know how much food to order.



See YOU at  
the party.

73 Jim, KA9KRE

## HAM PLATES

The deadline to renew or apply for your Amateur Radio License Plates has been changed again. The deadline has been extended to December 31st., 1984

## Feedback

Don't we all at times sit back and muse about our lives. We see where we started and our finish place is sometimes very different from what we had envisioned. These deep thoughts invariably come while you're taking out the garbage or scrubbing the tub.

Who would have thought that one year ago a newly tested and recently passed tech would achieve such lofty status in 12 short months. Yes I am now the VP of the club.

My rise to greatness came in a call a few weeks ago from one of our past fearless leaders, one Mr. Small. Would I be interested in having my name in nomination for a TARS office he asks smoother than a vacumm cleaner salesman.

Knowing my tendency to end up like McGovern and Carter in elections I told John to submit my name. Little did I know that being on the ballot was as good as a stuffed ballot box in Chicago.

Election night was tense but I held up well during the long three minute election and 10 minute tally. Then euphoria, I'd won!

It's sad to confess but power quickly corrupts. I rode home in the backseat with KA9LQM being my limo driver up front. After all, VIP's can't associate with the mere rabble that have elected them.

The inagural ball was wonderful. Mike purchased a soccer ball and tossed it strongly in my direction whenever my head got too big. Hmm, it did hit the old pate a few times as I ordered him around as any good VP would. I wonder if "soccer" and "sock her" have any deeper meaning for KA9LQM?

In the weeks since this heady experience I have once again become my normal quiet unobtrusive self. I promise to do a fine job for TARS and our Mr. Pres Jim. As I enter the hall for the Christmas Party the red carpet can be rolled out in front of me while the ladies do a curtsy and the men bow, uh, excuse me I have to dodge a soccer ball now! Merry Christmas and don't let power corrupt you in the New Year.

de KA9LMO your humble VP

Editors Notebook continued from page 1

5. New Item for those like me who have trouble with the CW (is that Chains & Whips?) Take one code pill and you can send and receive at 30 WPM guaranteed. If you believe that send your check for \$19.99 to the Sparks Editor's Vacation in the Bahamas Fund.

6. How about a 2 meter rig that will fit in the ultra miniature cars that Detroit is building these days. Or you could tow a small trailer to house the Ham gear along with the portable refrigerator filled with 807's for that Emergency Communications Conference Jim (KA9KRE) keeps talking about.

7. And last but not least you can fill the Sparks Editors Christmas Stocking with all of those articles you have been meaning to send in but never got a round to. For a limited time only we will refund postage for all articles which are received before the deadline. Deadline is February 31st. in the year 2000.





**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

WSO, Evansville, IN

DATE: November 19, 1984

TO: Jim Shoptaugh  
Tri-State Amateur Radio  
R.R. #8, Box 165  
Browning Road  
Evansville, Indiana 47711

FROM: *Norm Caroff*  
Meteorologist in Charge  
National Weather Service - Evansville - Tri-State

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

On behalf of the Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky Area Managers of the National Weather Service I would like to express our gratitude to the Tri-State Amateur Radio Club for their participation in severe weather detection on the evening of November 9, 1984.

The National Weather Service radar at Evansville was inoperative during the period of November 8 through the 10th. On Friday afternoon, November 9, 1984, severe weather began to move into southeast Missouri and western Illinois. At this time, the decision was made to contact the Tri-State Amateur people to supplement information provided by surrounding radar. (Actually to become the Eyes and Ears for the WSO, Evansville).

Ed Estes reported to the NWS, WSO, Evansville the evening of November 9th, after being notified of impending severe weather to activate the Amateur Radio Network.

Reports from the field were relayed to Ed, then to the WSS/RS on duty for interpretation and analysis to determine if warnings were necessary.

Two Warnings were issued that evening with one verifying. Without the help of the Tri-State Amateur people many false alarms could have been initiated or we could have missed an actual severe weather occurrence.

The National Weather Service is very proud to be associated with such dedicated people who volunteer their time, effort and expertise when needed and to work with our people during severe weather outbreaks.

A special tip of the ol' chapeau to Ed Estes who held it all together.

We thank you and look forward to a long association with your group.





# NAMES in the NEWS

READING THE MAIL de Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV

Al Schoettlin, W9UMS, helped the Philharmonic celebrate their 50th. Anniversary. Al played viola in the first Philharmonic in the early 1930's while attending high school.

N6ACP, Dave Bradford, who was active in TARS about four years ago before moving to Harrisburg, IL has since moved to St. Louis. At last report he was moving again, this time to Alaska.

Fr. Paul, WB9MRX, has recently upgraded to Extra Class. N9EGI, Tom, got his General ticket at Mt. Carmel in November. Jeff Merrow has his application in for Novice and Tech. tests at Mt. Carmel on December 8th. Good Luck Jeff.

Hal, WB9FNN, and Carrol have returned from a Thanksgiving Holiday in Texas. I believe it was a work holiday, if it didn't rain too much. Vance, N9DOR, had his son and family from Louisiana for the Holidays.

Ken, WA9HGA, is a proud Grandfather again. His daughter Madeline, gave birth to a 8 pound 7 Oz. boy on November 12.

Since pres. Jim, KA9KRE, put up his 75 meter ZEP antenna, he is having a ball checking in on the precipitation net, Indiana Traffic Net, Ole Miss and Gulf Coast Nets and just plain rag-chewing.

Paul, K8GIK, is still nursing a sore thumb; ask him how you use a 14 inch pipewrench to remove one small stubborn nut. Answer to above question. "If the wrench won't work just get a big hammer and chisel" OUCH!!!

How about letting me know what Santa brought so I can let the readers know?

## ANNOUNCING

### VOLUNTEER EXAMINER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Examiner Program in Evansville is moving right along with the first tests scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 1985. The test site will be IVTC, Indiana Vocational Technical College, 3501 First Avenue. Time and Room Number will be announced later.

Mail 610 form and check for \$4.00 made payable to ARRL/VEC to: Blanche M. Elpers, KA9EIV  
840 Herndon Drive  
Evansville, IN 47711

Deadline is January 17, 1985. Your check must reach Blanche by that date so mail a few days early.

Accredited Volunteer Examiners, at this writing are W9GJ, AK9G, N9CUK, and KT9F in the extra class and WB9VSQ, N9DYE, WB9FNN, KD9JB, and KA9EIV in the advanced class.

Several applications have been sent in but due to the demand for the Accreditation and Reference Manual, ARRL depleted their supply and are waiting for another printing. For those of you who have received your accreditation, please give me a call. If anyone would like to apply for VE status, please contact me for the application form.

FCC Form 610's can also be obtained from Blanche; however please be sure and send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope with your request.

73 KA9EIV

## XMAS PARTY

TARS Christmas party is December 14, 1984 at the Kingsmens Club just off of Hwy. 57 & Baseline Road (See Map on Page 4)

The cost will be \$5.00 per person for both TARS members and guests; however **ONLY TARS MEMBERS** are eligible to win the door prizes. We will have a minimum of \$350.00 in door prizes this year. XYL's are not eligible for the door prizes unless licensed.

Due to the DWI laws this years party is BYOB, TARS will furnish soft drinks and ice. Reservations for the Christmas Party have to be received no later than December 7, 1984. Send check payable to TARS to:

Joyce Spencer, KA9CPE  
1550 South Burkhardt Rd.  
Evansville, IN 47715